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Vancouver Status of Women 2029 W. 4th Ave. 736-3746

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MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

On June 24, at the beginning of debate on her estimates, Provincial Secretary Grace McCarthy announced that her office was granting Vancouver Status $75,000 for the 1976-77 fiscal year. This is exactly the same amount that we received from the Provincial Secretary last year, and about $30,000 less than we requested this year.

McCarthy's announcement followed an intensive effort by members, executive and staff to secure a funding commitment from her office. We have a file folder full of copies of letters to her from our members. The outpouring of member and public support for VSW must have had a great effect on the government's decision. For everyone who wrote, we all deeply appreciate your effort and support.

A delegation of staff and executive members were in Victoria on June 24. They visited government back benchers, leaders of the opposition, and members of the cabinet, demanding that they discuss women's issues during the debate on the Provincial Secretary's estimates and support VSW's grant proposal. When the grant announcement was made, some of them were still in members' offices urging action. As a result of their work, the legislature spent a substantial period on women's issues that day. Hansard shows an amazing agreement that women's is issues are important and that the time has come to do something. (Translation to action is another matter.)

Even with the grant we still have some problems. First, we cannot give the staff a raise. They now earn $800 a month and we had hoped to raise that to $864. Second, there are seven people on staff and we do not have enough money to pay seven people for the entire year, nor to increase the staff to eight, as we had planned. We have applied to the City of Vancouver for additional funding and are waiting for a reply.

Along with continuing our present programs, the major task we want to accomplish this year is an expansion of our library, reference, and information services so that we can be a better resource for women and women's groups throughout the province. This is doubly important since the Western Canadian Women's News Service no longer exists.

We will explore every avenue we can think of for ways to become less dependent upon grants and a single funding source. For this effort we need the ideas and experiences of all our members. I hope that you can help as much with this effort as you did with getting this year's Provincial Secretary grant.

- Nancy D. Conrod
President, VSW

HELP WANTED

SHARING THE WORK

Now that VSW has funding, we are cheering (hurrah! hurrah!) and getting down to making plans for our work priorities for this year. However, six or seven staff can't do all the work that has to be done -- no matter how much we work 24 hour days! We need your help to make this a GREAT (not just good) year.

We are in the process of identifying and evaluating all the kinds of work we do already, and want to start doing in the coming year, and organizing all that more efficeiently and effectively. One of our weaknesses in the past has been our neglect of the possible volunteer help that lives out there in our 850 members. We plan to start correcting this, and in September hope to start many activities such as workshops, study groups, research projects, volunteer committees, etc. so that we can increase our effectiveness in the community and TRULY be a working organization of hundreds.

But big jobs can't be done unless the little jobs are done too. And so here is a beginning 'ad' or 'column' on what right now, August 1976, we could use your help with. (Next month -- more!)

1. Human Rights Hearings. VSW receives announcements, background material and invitations for all Human Rights cases held in the Lower Mainland. In the past whoever of the staff was interested and free would go; however, it is a perfect job for any VSW member. All it requires is reading the background material, attending the hearing to just listen and take notes, reporting back to the VSW office, and perhaps, if relevant, working on a short article for KINESIS (with help of staff, if you want). It's interesting -- and important.

Up-coming Cases:

a. Issue: sex discrimination in rate of pay, and dismissal without reasonable cause. Female complainant against a credit reporting agency. Hearing is on August 17 & 18, 1976, starting at 10 a.m. (Vancouver)

b. Issue: refusal to hire on basis of age. Male complainant against a cement company. Hearing is on September 13 & 14, 1976 starting at 9:30 a.m. (Burnaby)

Anyone interested?

2. An Office Organizing Project. We have hundreds of files on issues, groups, business, etc. We don't have, however, any files on specific 'important people' like all MLAs, all MPs, and other public individuals. We need someone who would like to set this up, labeling files, getting photographs, background information that may be available, and refilling the material we have on those individuals which is currently under specific issues or correspondence. Is there someone out there who is itching to set up a system such as this?

3. Producing the Feminist Resource Materials Kit. We need to run off another edition of this kit soon. It involves typing stencils, running them off the gestetner, and collating. This is perhaps a three-day job. Talk to Karen if this grabs you.

4. Updating and Reprinting the B.C. Guide to the Women's Movement. Another immediate need. It involves phoning and writing organizations to confirm their existence, addresses, phone numbers, etc. Then typing of stencils, running off, and collating. Talk to Karen if interested.

5. Book Reviews. (See page 14 for details)

6. ...and always we need phone answering! We can always use women who can sit at the front desk and answer the phone. It can also involve opening the mail, watering the plants(!) and greeting people who drop in for basic information, i.e. copy of KINESIS, just to chat, to find out what VSW is, to ask for publications, etc. Although the job is simple, it is not that helpful if it's just a one-shot affair. We are looking for people who can commit themselves for a specific day on a fairly regular basis, i.e. every Monday, and for at least a month or more. Anyone interested? It's rather fun and not too demanding.

GAIN

On May 17/76, Human Resources Minister Bill Vander Zalm introduced legislation which wipes out the Mincome and Handicapped Persons legislation and replaces it with one all inclusive act called the Guaranteed Available Income for Need Act (GAIN). Upon first reading, the Bill received no discussion as is customary when a new Bill is introduced. Second reading is supposed to be a different story. In this case however the Gains Bill was one of several pieces of legislation that was slipped through the House while all of the members of the opposition were boycotting the session in protest over a questionable speaker's ruling the night before. Upon third reading, the Bill received its first discussion but in essence it was already a fait accompli and it was proclaimed into law the same day.

Vander Zalm has called his legislation "the most progressive social services legislation anywhere in Canada" and said "it will be the envy of every province in Canada". Well, before we can accept Mr. Vander Zalm's glowing praise of his own legislation, we had better take a very close look at the Act. He claims the legislation will greatly benefit the single parent through a "substantial" increase in the welfare rates and through the extension of health benefits until the persons can get back into the swing of employment. This sounds great until the question is put: What are the new rates? The answer is they are in the regulations. In fact even upon a casual perusal of the Act, the phrase "in accordance with the regulations" appears so often in cricical areas of the legislation that it is almost impossible to consider the ramifications of some sections without referring to the regulations.We are told that the regulations will not be released until October 1/76. In the meantime we are asked to take the stated intentions of Mr. Vander Zalm on faith.

But some of the additional "benefits" we know about are: the suspension of the special needs allowance for persons lacking basic necessities, the return of the "assets test" for recipients of Mincome, the inclusion of senior citizens and handicapped persons in the category of welfare recipients, the designation of 175 places in B.C. that are off limits to persons applying for welfare, the inclusion of an unprecedented penalty for those who obtain money or social services through false representation which requires a repayment of double the amount of money obtained in addition to a $2,000 fine &/or 6 months in jail. Another benefit is the section giving the Minister the right to declare any person who terminates employment for other than medical reasons ineligible for assistance. For the single parent with children, there are many valid reasons to leave work which do not fit within a health problem.

Vander Zalm has also gone into the business of maintenance collection. Many single parents (most are women) have difficulty getting maintenance awards and the amounts awarded are ridiculously low. (In addition, when the courts award maintenance they give first consideration to all the debts that the working parent has, i.e. new house, car, sailboat, shares in a company, before he/she is required to meet their obligations to their family.) Furthermore, payments are often irregular or impossible to collect. Consequently, improvements in the maintenance collection system are long overdue. But, does Vander Zalm provide any better methods? First of all much of what we wish to know is in the regulations and as previously stated they are not public yet. However section 16 of the Act sets out several concepts that are frightening to behold:

> Section 16(2) Where there is an order of the court or agreement, the minister may, as a condition of the payment of income assistance or the provision of social services, require an individual to assign to the Crown the right to maintenance under the order or agreement, and in that case, the amount payable under the order or agreement is a debt due to the Crown.
>
> 16(4) Where there is no court order or agreement, the Minister may apply in the Provincial Court on behalf of and in the name of the Crown, and obtain an order for maintenance by the person required by law to pay maintenance, and the amount due or accruing under the order is a debt due to the Crown, and the order shall provide that payment be made to the court for disbursement to the Minister of Finance.

These sections allow the Minister of Human Resources to require that anyone who applies for either income assistance or ancillary social services, such as day care or homemaker's services, assign all rights with respect to maintenance over to the Crown. Other services included under social services are: case work, counselling, assessment, referral services, residential and foster-home care services or any form of child care services, occupational training, etc., . . . Just how high a price are we prepared to pay for a collection service? To subrogate anyone's rights to the Crown for whatever purposes is a very serious undertaking. This Act removes the single parents' rights to self-determination over the use of their maintenance payments and it applies irrespective of whatever type of social service they receive.

We cannot examine the difference is income in real terms for the single parent because the new rates are in the regulations. But another question remains: will the $100 maintenance exemption still be part of the new social assistance regulations? Single-parent families have in the past been able to gain $100/mo. in addition to their welfare payments either through the work of the parent raising the children, or, through the maintenance payment of the parent living apart. For single-parent families, this extra $100 is a crucial factor in basic survival. If the regulations do not continue to provide this exemption, ALL maintenance payments awarded to the single-parent will be remitted directly to the Crown. Consequently, unless the new welfare rates are significantly higher than they now stand, many single-parent families will in fact be receiving less that they do at present.

For example, let us take a look at one single parent family on welfare: a woman living with a three year old child. Very few places in Vancouver take children and she is required to pay $276.50/mo. rent for that privilege. In Welfare, she receives:

Basic Support:	$150.00
Shelter:	$120.00
Extra Shelter:	$117.00
	$387.00/mo.
Maintenance: +	$100.00
(this was her total award)	$487.00/mo.

Her expenses for the month are:

Rent:	$276.50
Food & Household necessities:	$110.00
B.C. Hydro & B.C. Tel	$ 25.00
	$411.50/mo.

Welfare will only pay 75% of extra rent required so that $39.50 in rent must come off her $150/mo. basic support. From these figures it is obvious that she could not maintain the minimal standard of living for herself and her daughter without that extra $100/mo. in maintenance. Only one part of the budget can be cut back: food. Items not included in this budget are: no dry cleaning money, no long distance phone calls, no books, magazines, movies, no hair-setting lotion, no art materials or hobbies, no dancing or swimming lessons for her child, no ferry fares to visit anyone, no holidays, no special items such as a present for a friend or a new dress for a party.

Whether or not the $100 maintenance exemption will still be in force, another aspect of the Gains Act concerns those single-parents who are receiving maintenance payments in excess of $100 and are merely receiving a supplement from human resources to make the amount liveable, or,are receiving ancillary services such as day care. According to the Gains Act, all maintenance becomes a debt due to and remitted to the Crown. But: when does the single-parent get their maintenance award returned to them after they go off welfare? Section 16(7) contains another kicker:

> The Minister of Finance shall pay periodically out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the individual in respect of whom money is paid under this section, all money received on behalf of that individual or dependent child under this section, after deducting all money paid or provided by the Minister for income issistance or social services for that individual or dependent child after the date of an assignment under subsection (2) or an order under subsection (4), less such amount as may be prescribed by the regulations.

The words of this section to note are: "after deducting all money paid . . . for income assistance or social services . . . ". The government collects the maintenance payments and then deducts all money paid out to the recipient via either income assistance (this includes health services,i.e. medical, dental or optometrist) and/or social services. Upon third reading of the Bill, the last line "less such amount as may be prescribed by the regulations" was added. What does any of this mean--we don't know--it's in the regulations. But what it could mean is that for every dollar or social service received,maintenance will be used to pay it back. An interesting question is:how will the value of social services be calculated? Will Mr. Vander Zalm publish a rate table for the number of dollars/minute of the social worker's time in addition to the assessed value of occupational retraining, day care, special counselling, etc., so that single-parents know what kind of a bill they are running up. They can then calculate how long it will take after they go off welfare to repay their "debt to the Crown".

For those in need who are fortunate even to receive maintenance payments, welfare could now become a long-term loan with easy payment plans. The money is deducted at source and the government takes it all.

- Lorri Rudland

MAKARA?

MAKARA is a totally enthralling new magazine. First intrigued by its beautiful covers, my search for more information revealed that Makara's freshness extends not only to its scope of material, but to its production and editorial policy as well.

It all started in January of 1974 when the Pacific Women's Graphic Arts Co-op was formed in order to give women with children an opportunity to gain training and experience in graphic arts and business. Somewhat later the Ad Company emerged, doing graphic design, and in April of 1975 the planning of Makara began. (All three of these still co-exist at the same address--busy place). Publishing had been a goal of the original Co-op, and after the decision to go ahead with the idea had been made, nine months of planning resulted in the first issue which came out late last year. Makara is published bi-monthly at this point, thus the August-September 1976 issue will be the fifth.

Thus far Makara is not a magazine that can be pigeon-holed--the flexible format allows for an issue like #4 which was a 'Habitat Special', as easily as it does for one like the second issue, which included poetry, articles on psychotherapy, dancer Maud Allen, an interview with comedienne Valri Bromfield, fiction by a 6½ year old girl as well as by adults, and a photographic essay. Other issues have reproduced the work of Vancouver artists, and included book reviews and political articles as well.

The incredible variety of the material published is in no way disorganizing or disorienting--quite the contrary. It perhaps reflects an adult's scope of interest better than most magazines which purport to be of "general interest."

Another unusual aspect of Makara is that it is entirely produced by women. Co-operatively produced by ten women, who wrestled with the problem of how to avoid hierarchical structure during their planning of the magazine. Their solution: editorial teams of three look at everything that is submitted, rather than an editor editing fiction, someone else looking at photographs submitted, etc., with those left over merely "doing the work". Each team consists of a writer/editor, a graphic artist, and a technical/support staff person, two of whom must agree on the approval of a submission.

The two women I spoke to about Makara stressed their interest in positive images rather than negative ones, particularly where women are concerned. They are anxious to present pictures of women doing things, without the activity being branded as 'exceptional'. Consequently, one kind of article they are very interested in receiving is stuff written by women involved in something--whether it is occupation or struggle. So, if you have an article, send it to them; if you have an idea, send them an outline. They are soliciting manuscripts of all types, as well as art work and photography, and do pay for any material that is used.

Makara is well distributed, so you're likely to see it at your corner drug store or newstand if you haven't already. If you haven't seen it, (and especially if you have), subscriptions are available at $6.00/yr. Submissions and subscriptions should be sent to Makara, 1011 Commercial Dr. Vancouver, B.C.

The key phrase to mention in trying to describe Makara, is, I think, as they suggest, "by women for people". It is both of those things, and as such is a revolutionary and fascinating magazine. Get yours today!!

Leslie McDonald

WRA

WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION MATERIAL

1. "Members of the Legislative Assembly Tell Stories", reports of the 55 Lobby Teams that visited MLAs on March 22,1976. Available for a donation ($1 plus postage) from: Women Rally for Action, c/o 2029 West 4th Ave. Vancouver, B.C.

2. "Our Story", a reprint of the Women Rally for Action Brief. Will be available within two weeks, for a similar amount, from the address above.

3. Video Tapes:
   a. ½ hour. A mixture of March 8th and March 22nd Rallies. From: Women in Focus, Women's Office Box 85, Student Union Bldg. UBC, Vancouver.
   b. ½ hour. March 8th, 1976. International Women's Day Rally -- educational rally for Women Rally for Action. From: Vancouver Status of Women, 2029 West 4th Ave. Vancouver.
   c. 1 hour. Women Rally for Action, Victoria, B.C. March 22nd,1976. -- includes major reports and speeches. From: VSW (see above)

4. Audio Tapes:
   a. An audio cassette tape, copy of the CJVB radio tape. (March 22, 1976). From ISIS, 2185 West 4th Ave. Vancouver.
   b. A reel-to-reel, unedited tape of all the speeches, March 22nd 1976. From: ISIS (see above).

5. Film:
   a. A very short, super 8mm film of the March 22nd Rally. From: ISIS (see above)

6. Photographs:
   Many photographs were taken. Hopefully many of them will be printed in the (coming) Rally Storybook. Lending of photographs may not always be possible, but 3 people/groups that do have some are:
   a. ISIS, 2185 West 4th Ave. Vancouver.
   b. Vancouver Status of Women, 2029 West 4th Ave, Vancouver.
   c. Ann Kirk, c/o POCO, Port Coquitlam Area Women's Centre Box 243, Port Coquitlam,B.C.

UNETHICAL

The Vancouver Status of Women and the Women's Health Collective are in the process of investigating the issue of doctors in Surrey double-billing for performing abortions. Double-billing is a process whereby the actual fee is covered through the patient's health plan but in addition the doctor charges an extra fee for performing the abortion. In some cases it has been claimed that doctors have charged an additional fee of $65.00 to $75.00. We request that any women who have been double-billed for abortions (or tubal ligations?) call the Status of Women at 736-3746. We feel that double-billing is an unethical practice and we want to see that it is discontinued. In order to bring pressure upon the government to have this issue investigated, we need to know how widespread this practice is. All calls will be completely confidential and no names will be released unless the woman herself wishes to make a public statement.

WOMEN NEED INSURANCE

This is the age of women's liberation, the age of equality and the death of the term "weaker sex." That is why there is no reason for women to have only weak or inadequate plans for their financial future. Now that we are no longer "second class" citizens, women should own insurance to protect themselves and their loved ones -- just as men do.

Women should buy insurance protection for the same reasons that men do. Women who are earning a living, have a "Human Life Value" in the same way that men do. This economic value is the ability to produce income -- income that is used to take care of the economic problems of living. In addition to providing for today's requirements, they must accumulate property which will cover these same economic needs when their ability to earn an income ceases. Therefore, they have three major protection requirements: protecting their income with an income protecting disability insurance, protecting their future with a retirement savings plan, and protecting their responsibilities with a life insurance policy.

Women earning an income, therefore, face the same problems as men. However, there is a difference. Women, in general, must accumulate more property than men, because women live longer and their needs at retirement will continue for a longer period of time.

Today's woman falls into four intermingling facets, ranging from the young single person, to the highly qualified professional woman. Each facet has protection needs.

The young single woman will benefit from the flexibility provided by the living guarantees of insurance. For example, income protection, savings toward future plans, or beginning the security of a retirement income at a very low investment rate.

The working wife's need for insurance protection is extremely important. As a contributor to the income of the family ubit her potential worth is astronomical, for it is the wife's income in more than 65% of the homes that brings the family over the $20,000 a year mark. The need to protect the family against this loss is obvious not only today but also at retirement.

The woman on her own raising a family has not only all the needs of the young single person or the working wife but the responsibilities of protecting and maintaining all that a family unit requires. She must protect her income, her financial obligations, as well as protect her children's futures in case of her early demise.

The professional woman must be aware of the fact that it is her professional skills that produce the capital from which she derives her income and her purchasing power, and recognize that her ability to earn is of paramount importance to her. Therefore, she must not only protect her assets today, but also build to maintaining this standard of living after retirement.

Women control 70% of the nation's wealth, yet insurance protection on their lives represents only 15% of the total for the nation. Why? Lack of insurance knowledge is no excuse for by picking up your phone you can receive the answers.

So give me a call and let's light a candle in the darkness.

- Barb Gedroff
office 682-1641
home 738-1952

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

The International Council of Women held its 21st triennial assembly on UBC Campus in last part of June. The topic of the conference was THE CHALLENGE OF THE FUTURE and Sunday Service speaker Dr. Margaret Fulton, Dean of Women, UBC, stated "I firmly believe that at least part of the reason our civilization faces total destruction lies in the fact that throughout our whole recorded history, the political power structure has been male dominated and the decisions which have shaped our present world have been made solely by men. Women have for far too long kept to their passive roles as the bearers of children and the makers of homes, while men have perfected their roles as hunters and warriors and providers."

She continued,"... Centuries of controlling the intuitive aspects of being, and a value system which puts more stress on strength and power than on vision or dreams, have left us with the belief that men are more able to make rational decisions than women. As a result, aggressive male chauvinism has brought the earth planet to the edge of the abyss, but salvation may yet be possible. A great new surge of energy is coming into society from both women and young people. Male authority and male aggression are being challenged as never before in the history of the race. Many men are confused and threatened by this challenge coming from the new voice of women, but many are responding positively, recognizing that those old heroic male values are no longer valid.... Women have minds and they are quite as capable as men at problem solving and at political decision making.

Dr. Fulton warned that now that women would finally be given an opportunity to participate in an imaginative rebuilding of the world they must be "very careful not to repeat male power patterns....Women can be just as cruel, ruthless and power hungry as men, while many men have shown themselves to be as loving and tender as women. What is needed is not an exchange of roles where one sex dominates the other, but an equal sharing in the organizing of a new social world order."

COFFEE HOUSE

The Full Circle Coffee House has been open and operating Friday nights since May, at the New School, 3070 Commercial Drive (15th and Com.). Full Circle is a Women's coffee house, run by women for women. Currently, it is the only licensed gathering place exclusively for Women in Vancouver.

Weekly, there has been live entertainment by women artists, usually feminist and folk music.

Admission is $1.00, and beer, cider, coffee and food is available at reasonable cost. Best of all, the proceeds do not go into the hands of men. Any money made is recycled back into the coffee house, plus a nominal rent goes to the New School for the use of the facilities.

In order for the coffee house to be successful, that is, to remain open, the support of women is needed. Women interested in providing entertainment should feel free to volunteer their talents and time. Women interested in collecting admissions, selling refreshments, or setting and cleaning up, should come any Friday and indicate their interest. But, perhaps most important, for the coffee house to remain open, we need women, all women to attend.

So come, Friday nights, 8:30 to 1 am, the New School (basement, side entrance), 3070 Commercial, and bring all your women friends.

P.P.

BOOK

POPULATION TARGET: T POLITICAL ECONOMY OF POPULATION CONTROL IN LATIN AMERICA by Bonnie Mass. Analyzes the use of neo-Malthusian ideology of population control as a smokescreen intended to divert people's attention from the real causes of poverty and unemployment. Co-published by The Women's Press & The Latin American Working Group. 256 pages, graphics, charts, case studies. Available in August 1976.

We thought you'd like to know the VSW Reference Library now consists of:

a) reference files on feminist issues from a to z (ask for our list)
b) VSW publications (materials we produce--ask for list)
c) other publications on sale at VSW
d) women's info desk with free take-away leaflets, etc.
e) back issues of feminist newsletters from across Canada
f) back issues of VSW newspaper KINESIS
g) growing collection of feminist paperbacks (review copies)
h) audio-visual tapes of VSW TV show Woman Alive--can be borrowed

Ask for a list of our reference files. It is by no means complete but there are hundreds of files --they fill a four-drawer filing cabinet! Here's an idea of what's in it: C.R., abortion, birth control, status of women in Canada, daycare, sexism in education, ethnic women, women's health, housework, IWY, men's liberation, rape, women in politics, women in sports, women and work, -- all the biggies! A couple of the files were so big we had to break them up into numerous smaller ones. We do have a variety of files on a variety of less popular but important feminist issues like battered women, policewomen, prison women, the family, high school women, herstory, pensions, credit, motherhood, pornography, prostitution, religious feminism, union women, etc.

After weeding out our collection of MS. MAGAZINES for the past several years we found we had up to 3 copies of many of the issues so we sent a boxload off to Okalla women's prison.

Making up monthly reports of our services and activities for Provincial Secretary can be a pain in the neck but it can also reveal some interesting things. For instance, in the month of June VSW received 30 requests for information from the reference library (not including requests for VSW publications). The requests came from universities, resource centres, women's centres, government departments, students, community agencies, teachers, members of the media, libraries; from groups in Vancouver, Calgary, London, Ottawa, Armstrong, Powell River, Oregon, Richmond, Victoria, Columbia, Toronto, Houston, Nanaimo, Maple Ridge, Kamloops.

Materials listed here are, or will be, housed in the VSW Reference Library. Anyone is welcome to use the files any week day between 9 a.m. & 5 p.m. It is hoped that by publishing these lists of materials we can help feminist groups outside Vancouver develop their own reference libraries.

- Karen Richardson

* Available from Books for Organizers, P.O. Box 21006, Washington D.C. USA 20009. Please add 40¢ postage for the first book and 20¢ for each book after that. Ask for their publications list.

RESOURCES

POLITICS

Political Action: Practical Guide to Movement Politics, discusses organizational structure, leadership, the role of women in people's movements, tactics, pressure politics, and electoral politics, finding your constituency, defining issues. $1.95. *

How People Get Power: Organizing Oppressed Communities for Action: speaks directly to the rural organizer; step-by-step progression from analysis to power tactics. $2.45 *

Direct Action Organizing: Handbook for Women, sensitivity to the unique difficulties of women organizers -- how to set principles, choose issues and constituencies, plan action and tactics. $3.00 *

PUBLICITY

Promoting Your Cause: detailed techniques of public relations and media communications to gain support from the community for your group. $3.50 *

How to Make the Media Work For You: for women who don't know the first thing about publicity, press releases, media manipulation, a step-by-step guide to the fundamentals. $3.50

FUNDRAISING

While You're Up, Get Me A Grant: Basic Bibliography on Grants: 10 page pamphlet on grantsmanship, list of publications on whys and wherefores of fundraising. $1.50 *

The Bread Game: Realities of Foundation Fundraising: 96 page paperback prepared by tax lawyers and foundation members with a third world perspective. $2.95 from Glide Publications, 330 Ellis St San Francisco, California, USA 94102. Ask for their publications list.

WOMEN'S CENTRES

How To Organize A Multi-Service Women's Centre: based on a survey of 100 women's centres, a complete guide to setting up a centre-- basic organization, feminist research, publicity, legalities, money, special projects, divorce counselling, speakers bureau. $3.00 *

How To Organize A Women's Crisis-Service Centre: based on two years' experience of a women's centre; counselling skills on rape, pregnancy; publicity, fundraising, etc. $2.25 *

Free Space: Perspective on the Small Group in Women's Liberation: what happens in small groups, why they are important. Intended for women beginning groups. $2.25 *

Dynamics of Group Action: guide to effective internal group relations; regulating; strengthening and perpetuating group interaction; what holds the group together, problem solving steps, group maturity. $4.95 *

OTHER FEMINIST RESOURCES

VSW Annual Report: April/75 to March/76; outlines all our activities and services over the past year -- eg. 1200 ombuds cases, 90 speaking engagements, etc. Includes financial statement, staff reports on activities. Free from VSW, 2029 West 4th Ave. Vancouver, B.C.

Hansard, June 24: documents the B.C. Legislative Assembly discussions on funding for VSW. Statements from members of all 4 political parties. $1.00 from Queen's Printer, Victoria

Family Law Supplement: 15 page section in May 76 SWAG News covering community of property, Wives Protection Act, Family Relations Act, marriage contracts, maintenance and divorce, change of name, credit, etc. 50¢ from Victoria Status of Women, #8 - Fort St. Victoria.

Anything You Want To Be Career Access Catalog: advice on 40 occupations for young women including qualifications, salaries, status of women in each profession, non-traditional jobs. $1.25 from Jennifer Coyne, Miss Chatelaine, 481 University Avenue, Toronto Ontario.

Childcare, You and The Law: report by the Child Care Federation on laws affecting childcare services in this province. Free from them at 155 East 26 Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.

Status of Daycare in Canada, 1975: 12 page bilingual booklet reviewing major findings of national daycare info centre's annual study. Free from NDIC, Dept. National Health and Welfare, Brooke Claxton Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario.

Emergency Librarian: Women's Studies Issue, alternative library, journal with bibliographies, book reviews, etc. on feminist studies. $1.00 from Barbara Clubb, 697 Wellington Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Sex Variant Women in Literature: 400 page pioneering bibliography on lesbianism from biblical to modern times. The author, now 80, devoted 30 years of her life to the book. $8.00 from Diana Press, 12 West 25 St. Baltimore Maryland, USA 21218.

Proposals To Make Provision For Spouses Who Work At Home Under The Canada Pension Plan: 7 page speech by Marc Lalonde, Minister Responsible for Status of Women, at the Conference of Welfare Ministers, Feb/76. Free from Dept. Health and Welfare, Ottawa, Ontario. Ask to be put on his mailing list.

Willpower: learning packet for women in leadership in 14 categories of community action: balancing tasks and support, expanding the group, utilizing resources, etc. $1.00 from PDA, 225 Varick St. New York, NY USA 10010. Issued by the United Presbyterian Women.

Everyday Life: report of the Canadian Catholic Conference on Christian Feminism in the male dominated church. $1.50 from Project Feedback, Social Affairs, CCC, 90 Parent Ave. Ottawa.

CENTRE

WOMEN'S COMMUNICATION CENTRE

The Women's Communication Centre, 3 Church St. 4th floor, Toronto (416-368-0764) is a national information network, on, about and for women. It will answer inquiries, research topics, compile subject bibliographies and provide people to people resources across Canada.

The Women's Communications Centre acts as a clearing-house for feminist media, keeps up to date mailing lists of women's groups in Canada, and maintains an extensive index of subject material of interest to individual women and women's organizations as well as other community groups.

Contributions are welcome. Send your money, your inquiry, change of address or new address to be added to mailing list to the Women's Communications Centre.

WOMEN IN APPRENTICESHIPS

My name is Joy Langan. I am a journeyperson compositor (a fancy name for a printer). I started my apprenticeship in 1970 at age 27. I became a journeyperson in 1974 at age 31. When I applied for an apprenticeship, I was a single parent on a low income.

So what? Why is that important? It's important because I am now a tradesperson! I fought to get in! I fought to get through! But I haven't forgotten what it was like to be on a clerk's income, and to be paying day care, and then when I became an apprentice, to find day care was just that, and wasn't available to me, a shift worker. One does not forget those frustrations, humiliations (subsidized day care), and discouragements.

Here it is, almost seven years later, and I sat down to do some research for this article -- and I'm frustrated and discouraged all over again. For seven years I've talked to women and encouraged them to get into the trades. That's where the money is while you learn and certainly that's where the money is after you have your ticket. There's a tremendous sense of pride in mastering a trade, too.

I've talked to union representatives in industries that have apprenticeships and they assure me --"we would be delighted to have qualified women in our apprenticeships."

Personnel at the apprentice training branch of the department of labour have advised me they have been encouraging women to serve apprenticeships.

A Manpower spokesperson was very adamant that no unrealistic barriers are placed before women in qualifying for pre-apprentice programs.

I ask you--why then when I talked to the Research Department of the provincial department of labour did I get statistics like this:

> Ooctober 24, 1975.
> "In B.C. out of 12,334 registered apprentices, 11,485 are male; 497 are female and 352 are unknown. (With the rider that most of the unknowns are thought to be male)."

Hair of course is the "preoccupation" for women in apprenticeships. Out of 31 apprentices in barbering, 23 are women. And out of 458 hairdressing apprentices, 377 women. That, by the way, takes care of 400 of the 497 women apprentices in all trades.

Where are women in the high-priced apprenticships, where the big money is? Let's have a look:

TRADE	MALE	FEMALE
Auto body repair	387	0
Bricklaying	207	0
Carpentry	1748	0
Industrial Electrical	481	0
Ironworker	119	0
Joinery(bench)	148	0
Lineman	163	0
Machinist	307	0
Millwright	678	0
Plumbing	507	0
Refrigeration	130	0
Sheet Metal	419	0
Steel Fabrication	203	0

One of the arguments I hear is, "Women just don't apply."I don't believe it!

Women who have applied and not made it are not particularly anxious to talk about it. Nobody wants to talk about failure -- it hurts. And, I suspect, unless they actually get onto the books as an apprentice, there is no record of them having applied.

What happens when women do enquire?

COUNSELLOR: "What trade are you interested in?"
WOMAN: "I don't know, I want to enquire about them all, and what is involved in them."
COUNSELLOR: "Well, baking perhaps?"
WOMAN: "No!"
COUNSELLOR: "You must have some idea about what you want to do."
WOMAN: "I was curious about what would be required in carpentry."
COUNSELLOR: "What area of carpentry?"
WOMAN: "Area?"
COUNSELLOR: "Yes, industrial carpentry, home construction, or bench joinery?"
WOMAN: "Bench and joinery?"
COUNSELLOR: "Obviously, you have to determine what you're interested in before I can help you--and besides, carpentry probably would not be your cup of tea because it's mostly outdoors, and dirty and heavy,etc.etc."
WOMAN: (at this point feels vaguely out of place and is less and less sure if an apprenticeship is what she wants after all.)
COUNSELLOR: (convinced she certainly isn't very highly motivated.)

PERPLEXED AND DISCOURAGED

If she is fortunate enough to get past that initial go-around of an interview, perhaps she is perplexed and discouraged when she is told she has to find her own employer, and she must attend trades school so many months of the year, and the union will have to accept her, etc.

The more time I spent these past few days trying to update my information on applying for apprenticeships, the more discouraged and confused I became and I've made it through the system.

I received a letter a couple of months ago from a woman who tried and failed. She was angry and frustrated. She suggested one way I could find out why there has been little progress for women in apprenticeships would be to ask women who have been hung up in the process. She said, "it's probably better to talk to women who have tried it (applying), but not made it yet... rather than talking to the exceptions who have made it..."

HAVE YOU TRIED?

I'm asking! If you've tried, and failed, or if you've tried and made it, write to me. Tell me where you bogged down. Name names. If a counsellor has hassled you, or intimidated you, been unresponsive,or if you've come up to blank walls with employers or unions, tell me about it. That's the only way we at the Federation can find out where the wheels of bureaucracy are grinding to a halt for women trying to get into the trades. My address is: Joy Langan, Chairperson, Committee for Women's Rights, B.C. Federation of Labour, 517 East Broadway, Vancouver, B.C.

One suggestion, if you are interested in the "male" trades and don't really know what you're best suited for, you might be interested in a new program sponsored by the Women's Bureau, Department of Labour, 434-5761. The course is given at Haney Education Centre and during the eight weeks you would be exposed to drafting, sheet metal, welding, painting, carpentry, electricity and automotive and you would complete a project in each area.

In the meantime, I will make every effort to help you if I can.

There is no doubt we have to fight harder to get in, and harder to stay in. It's not right, but it is a fact of life in 1976. And, until many more women are in apprenticeships, we will have to continue to fight.

It isn't easy. But then who ever said being a feminist, or fighting for our rights was going to be easy?

- Joy Langan, Chairperson, B.C. Federation of Labour Women's Rights Committee

(This article was reprinted from the May 1976 issue of PRIORITIES, A Publication of the NDP Women's Committee, with their permission)

NEWS

MANPOWER WOMEN FIRSTS

Jo Mitchell, Women's Employment Co-ordinator, Pacific Region Manpower, reports that 2 women have been appointed managers at the Port Hammond and Haney Bank of Montreal. Haney branch even has a childcare centre!

Port Coquitlam RCMP has its first woman constable, and Alcan in Kitimat has its first woman journeyman(sic)-- an armature winder. (KR)

quote:

"The fact that men dominate all of the news media greatly influences how women are portrayed, whether information about women is reported, and, if so, where and how it is presented. The m media all consider it important to carry Mr. Blackwell's list of the worst dressed women, but fail to carry in-depth stories about the need for day care centres for working parents, adequate facilities for delinquent girls, and the inhumane way poor women are treated in our public medical and criminal justice facilities."

(From Mary A. Delsman, Everything You Need To Know About ERA, Meranza Press. Reprinted from Media Report to Women, Junel,1976).

WOMEN IN PORTUGAL

Following are the third and fourth parts of a four-part article sent to KINESIS by PAUL SANDISON of Stockholm, Sweden. The articles were written by LENA ISRAELSSON, a member of the Swedish Portugal Committee and of Group 8 a Socialist women's movement in Sweden. STEPHEN DEHLEN took some of the pictures along with LENA. He is also a member of the Swedish Portugal Committee. PAUL SANDISON is responsible for the translation from Swedish to English. Once again, KINESIS would like to express its appreciation to LENA, STEPHAN and PAUL.

the people's clinic

Clinica do Povo - the People's Clinic - in Cova da Piedade, an industrial suburb of Lisbon, gives women the very help which the patriachal fascist laws deny them -- free contraception and contraceptive advice, gynaecology, child and mother medical care as well as advice on abortion.

A group of medicine students and doctors occupied the gracious three-story building after the coup on April 25 in order to put both the building and their services to use for the people.

PEOPLE'S CLINIC BUILDING

The group has received economic help from amongst others some West German doctors and the Workers Committee on the great Lisnave shipbuilding Wharf.

When the whole clinic has been properly organized then the local inhabitants in the quarter will themselves take over and run the clinic.

This was certainly no sterile hospital environment. Here the women could boldly discuss their problems with the doctors without being either economically ruined or treated as an inferior.

"Don't go around blind! Have children when you want, and only when you want" reads the sign on the wall of the waiting room at the People's Clinic.

The doctors could be seen darting around playing with the children one moment and struggling into his white coat with the children at his feet the very next. When the doctors have finished treating a child's ear inflammation, for example, they always take the opportunity to discuss contraception with the child's mother.

The increasingly conservation political climate which has arisen in Portugal since the 25 November has also made itself felt in the People's Clinic. Before Christmas the fascist police, GNR, visited the Clinic, searched the premises on the pretext of looking for weapons. Nothing but a provocation, they say at the clinic. The population showed its supports for the clinic with demonstrations during the raid.

One no longer dares perform abortions at the clinic, but women are given advice and instruction as to where they can get an abor- performed cheaply and with a minimum of risk. It has been difficult to get people to work at the clinic since the 25 November. Many are afraid. Forty years of steel-grip fascism remains fresh in the minds of the people and they do not yet know what degree of tolerance the present conservative regime will show.

domestic workers' organize

"This is a revolutionary trade-union and don't forget it," said Concecao Romas, Chairman of the Domestic Workers Union (Epregado Syndicato do Servico domestico) when we met at the occupied "Domestic Workers' House" in Lisbon.

"We have organized the daughters of the very poorest in Portugal, and this has shaken certain employers so much that they have slipped up to the House and tried to redress previous wrongs so that they wouldn't get into any trouble."

Concecao Ramos is herself a domestic worker and comes, like so many others, from an isolated village in Portugal. When the family's little plot of land was not enough to support the whole family any longer, the only way to survive was to wait upon the upper-class in return for food and a bed. Many are sent away from home when they are still children. The youngest domestic workers are 9 years old.

Half are Illiterate

There are many factors which make it difficult to reach and organize the domestic workers. Most of them work in families without any colleague to get support from, left entirely to the whims of their employers and without any law or contract as help. The lack of education is perhaps the most serious problem. At least half of the domestic workers are illiterate, which means that in practice the union's struggle to raise the political awareness among the domestic workers has to begin with literacy programs.

CONCECAO RAMOS, Chairperson of the Domestic Workers' Union, was herself sent out as a young girl to serve the ruling class for food and a bed.

There is another union for domestic workers. It is run by the Catholic Church and the reactionary party PPD. It is this trade union and not Concecao's revolutionary syndicate which is recognized by the government and thereby attain the right to negotiate wage agreements.

Frightened the Employers

Even though the Syndicate is not recognized by the government it has succeeded in earning a certain amount of respect among some of the employers. Many of them were afraid when they got to hear of the domestic workers' revolutionary union and came up to the "House" to find out what they were to do if they didn't want to get into hot water. The union has managed to raise the wages for some women. There are examples of how they have managed to attain an increase in wages from 300 escudos a month to 3000 a month. The union has fixed the minimum wage level at 20 escudos an hour with food and 25 escudos an hour without food. However many are still forced to work for 6 escudos an hour.

(Ed. note: at present $3.11 Canadian will buy 100 Portugese escudos).

"The most important thing is not only the salary," said Concecao. "The most important thing is to improve the employment and working conditions and to create job security."

The Syndicate today organizes about 5000 domestic workers -- a figure

which is steadily growing -- of a total of 100,000 domestic workers in Portugal. There are actually a few men in the syndicate.

"But," Concecao said with a laugh, "they first came when we had already got going."

Occupation of the House

When the Syndicate was formed, Concaceo and other domestic workers a large house owned by the Department of Finance in central Lisbon. The house is in bad condition, there is no electricity and they have not had enough money to repair it.

They occuoied the house not only to use it as a headquarters for the syndicate, but also to give those domestic workers who had got the sack for "cheek" for example, a place to live in the house. They wanted to learn how to live collectively, study together and school themselves politically. At the moment 20 women live in the collective.

"It has not been easy to create a socialist collective," said Concecao. "Many of the girls come straight from the country which creates a lot of problems. We have also been too individualistic."

Changing the Men

Rather than prepare meals and wait upon the bourgoisie and their families we will prepare food for ourselves and other workers, thought the domestic workers and they started a restaurant

The occupied DOMESTIC WORKERS' HOUSE houses many activities: trade union and political schooling, a commune, 'restaurant' for the people, literacy courses, and soon a day care centre for the workers' children.

in the house. This also gives a job to domestic workers who have lost theirs.

At lunchtime about a hundred workers pour in to get a hearty meal at cost price. The women have really succeeded in bringing up the men and got them to forget their male "privileges". They all fetched their food and plate in the kitchen, carefully cleared the table afterwards, and, without exception, wiped the tables and carried the dishes to the kitchen. In the kitchen some of the workers stood and did the washing up while the women portioned out food to the next group of workers.

The house is large and the girls have a surplus of initiative. Now the domestic workers are planning a day-care centre in the house for their own children and for other workers children in the quarter, a quarter which is one of Lisbon's poorest.

Uncertain Future

It has been more difficult since the 25 November, when the Left was outmaneouvred. The prospects of being recognized by the continually hardening reactionary government are fading. It naturallu prefers the Church's trade union which understands the necessity of keeping the domestic workers in their place under their masters.

The Syndicate has now nearly no channels left by which it needs to reach its workers. Earlier the worker-run newspaper "Republica" and the radio station "Radio Renaissance" gave space and support to the domestic workers. Especially the radio transmissions were of importance, when one remembers that so many of the domestic workers are illiterate. But now the Editor of "Republica" has got his newspaper back and Radio Renaissance's voice has become that of the Church and the Reaction.

But the struggle will continue ("a luta continua") declared Concecao -- to build up a socialist Portugal together with the men, and, naturally, to abolish the whole domestic worker profession and liberate our energies for more important activities.

GOING ON AT THE OFFICE

WOMAN ALIVE

The first meeting of the WOMAN ALIVE Television Committee will be held at Cable 10 Studios (39th and Cambie) August 17th at 1 p.m.

Ferne Traux will give us a tour of the Studio and answer any questions regarding TV production.

Anyone interested in working on WOMAN ALIVE programming for the fall is welcome to attend. For more information call Nadine 736-3746.

CR TASK FORCE MEETING

There will be a CR Task Force meeting August 11, at 7:30 p.m., at the VSW office, 2029 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver.

Anyone who has been through a CR is welcome to attend.

NOW Visits

I was pleased to chat with Norman Rock, a representative of the Minneapolis chapter of the National Organization for Women, on July 20. Norman is a roving reporter with the local NOW newsletter, who recently visited Winnipeg Women's Centre where he was encouraged to meet with VSW. Minneapolis NOW has some 300 members, a number of which are male, unlike some NOW chapters. NOW is mainly involved in political lobbying and publicity around women's issues rather than service-oriented projects and each chapter raises its own funds.

Like VSW, NOW has its own difficulties in getting members motivated and this is especially important since NOW has no paid staff. NOW is not supported by government grants nor does it receive much in the way of foundation grants. Mr. Rock says the local NOW in his area has recently been promoting the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), affirmative action at Sears Roebuck(we should try Simpsons, Eatons and the Bay), as well as integrating women into sports at school through Title IX,and pro-abortion campaigning. Natch we filled him in on the history, objectives and activities of VSW as well as the women's in B.C. and Canada generally, and of course the Women's Rally for Action. It's always great to hear from people belonging to distant status of women groups.

Thanks for dropping in Norman. We're looking forward to seeing your write-up in the Minneapolis NOW newsletter.

-Karen Richardson

— thank you violet —

The Vancouver Status of Women office isn't the same these days. Violet Johnson has been with us for three years as a regular Volunteer Incentive Programme (V.I.P.) volunteer. At the end of June her service period with V.I.P. came to an end. Violet has been invaluable to the office -- she re-organized and maintained our extensive news clipping resource files on women's issues (Vi is an expert on the daily papers!) and also was responsible for handling the numerous publication orders (booklets & pamphlets on women's rights and legal issues, copies of briefs, guides, kits, etc. requested by individuals, schools, libraries, groups, colleges all over the province.)

We are grateful to Violet for her conscientiousness and competence. We are also grateful because she was fun to work with in the office. Violet still drops in when she has time and helps with the phones (another area she became expert in!), clippings, etc.

Thank you for everything Violet. We miss you!

letter lobby

MATRIMONIAL PROPERTY LAWS: RIPE FOR CHANGE - Joan Wallace

There is a time for everything, and one of the best times to lobby a government is when they are already under pressure from other sources to change laws.

That's why it is important that we all write "one more time" about the perennial subject of matrimonial property laws.

The Social Credit government may, or may not, have an interest in changing these laws. No one has said. But they are under some pressure right now from federal justice minister Ron Basford who, at a June meeting in Richmond of attorneys general from all ten provinces, urged that all provincial governments press forward with reform of matrimonial property laws which reflect the concept of marriage as a partnership of equals.

Matrimonial property laws are a provincial matter, but the federal government is interested because divorce is under federal jurisdiction and they would like to develop uniformity in matrimonial property laws among all provinces.

Your letters should be written to your provincial MLA, but it is important that copies go to Garde Gardom, Attorney General, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, and to Justice Minister Ron Basford, House of Commons, Ottawa. Try sending a copy to the editor of your local paper for the letters to the editor column too.

Here is a sample letter, but feel free to use as much or as little of it as you like. The last sentence, asking for your MLA's views on this topic will force him, or her, to think about the issue.

Good luck!

Name of MLA
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.

The equal division of matrimonial property has been an important issue to Canadian women ever since the 1973 Supreme Court decision in the case of Irene Murdoch provided a dramatic illustration of the injustices inherant in our present matrimonial property laws.

Lawyers and legislators have been talking for more than ten years about changing these laws and I believe that the time for action has come.

In British Columbia, the Berger Commission report makes some excellent recommendations for joint ownership and joint management of matrimonial property.

I would like to urge that legislation, based on this report, be introduced at the next session of the legislature.

I will look forward to hearing your views on this suggestion.

Sincerely,

Also see #2. in UNDONE this page.

FACTS OF THE ACTS

SWAG, Status of Women Action Group, Victoria, B.C. 766 Monterey, has published a brochure "For Better, For Worse: Marriage Laws and the Berger Commission" which outlines the "Facts of the Acts" in question and answer form.

UNDONE

The first session of this government is over and although we have seen more positive discussion on women's issues and women's rights, we still have no positive legislation enacted. If we mobilized all the support we already have for these issues we would have a good chance at success in the next session. WE MUST ORGANIZE AND SHOW OUR NUMBERS.

1. CHANGE OF NAME BILL # 34. Introduced as a private member's bill by Rosemary Brown on March 30/76. There has been a promise by Robert McClelland Minister of Health (he's responsible for Vital Statistics) to look into it -- and in the fall perhaps come forward with a government bill. To ensure this doesn't get delayed write letters to Mr. McClelland expressing your support of the Berger Commission recommendations (Report #11), and of Rosemary Brown's Bill 34. Please send copies to (if you have enough carbons!) Rosemary Brown, your own MLA, to Standing Committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills, and Standing Committee on Health, Education and Human Resources, and to the leader of your/or all parties...and to us at VSW! IT IS TIME WE HAD FULL AND EQUAL RIGHTS OVER THE CHOICE OF OUR OWN NAMES! (For a copy of the Berger Commission recommendations write to Queen's Printer, Legislative Bldg. Victoria, B.C. ($1). For a copy of Rosemary Brown's Bill 34 write to same.)

2. COMMUNITY OF PROPERTY BILL #39. Introduced as a private members bill by Rosemary Brown on May 3/76. The Attorney-General has not committed himself yet to the government introduction of this legislation. Because it is seen as controversial legislation, it is unlikely that we will see government action on this, unless they get a lot of public pressure to do so. However, scattered MLA support exists on both sides of the Legislature -- for example, Pat Jordan in the Social Credit benches is one very strong supporter. Please write letters in support of this bill (and of the Berger Commission recommendations) (Report #6) to Garde Gardom, Attorney-General of B.C.. Also copies can go to (please!) Rosemary Brown, your own MLA, leader of your/or all parties, Pat Jordan, Standing Committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills, and Standing Committee on Labour and Justice, and ...to VSW.
WOMEN WILL CONTINUE TO BE DEALT A POOR DEAL IN MARRIAGE UNTIL WE GET OUR EQUAL RIGHTS TO PROPERTY AND ASSETS THROUGH COMMUNITY OF PROPERTY LEGISLATION.
(Get the Bill and the Berger Report from the Queens Printer.)

3. FARM AND DOMESTIC WORKERS BILL # 84. Introduced by Rosemary Brown on June 23/76. It is criminal that there are workers in our province who are not even ensured the basic minimum of protective legislation like minimum wage, rights to holidays, rights to Worker's Compensation, hours of work, etc. This bill is to end the exclusion of farm and domestic workers from all minimal labour standards legislation. Because this group of people (largely women/and or immigrants) constitute a cheap labour pool, there is much reluctance to move on this -- for fear of the "disapproval" of the employers of these workers. To show your support for this legislation, please write to Allan Williams, Minister of Labour, Rosemary Brown, your own MLA, leaders of parties, Standing Committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills, Standing Committee on Labour and Justice, and VSW.

4. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION.

Questions have been asked of Grace McCarthy as to what happened to the Equal Employment Opportunities committee in her department and the same questions have been asked of the Attorney-General. Nothing seems to be happening. We expect a re-introduction of a bill on Affirmative Action by Rosemary Brown this fall -- but unless we show our support it will go without serious consideration for the 3rd or 4th time. Please write to press for the enactment of an Affirmative Action Bill and EEO programmes in all departments of the government.
NOT UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT TAKES THE INITIATIVE CAN WE HOPE THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO INSTITUTE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMMES.
Write to Rosemary Brown, your own MLA, party leaders, Minister of Labour, Attorney-General, and to VSW.

- Johanna den Hertog

NEWS

RANCHWOMEN

VSW member Ruth Patchett of the Circle V Ranch in the northern interior of B.C. writes that she and two other women (Betty Monroe and Anne Miquor) attended the B.C. Cattlemen's Convention in Fort St. John as representatives of the Punch Punchaw Livestock Association. Anne Miquor became a director and is the only woman on the directorship -- a position she also held last year.

HANSARD, JUNE 24, 1976

HANSARD

- Johanna den Hertog

On June 24, 1976 the Vancouver Status of Women was in Victoria to lobby for our funding. By happy coincidence, that very afternoon the Provincial Secretary's estimates were presented to the House for debate. Aside from the announcement of the $75,000 grant for VSW, all 2½ hours of debate on the Provincial Secretary's Department that afternoon was devoted to women's issues.

Some excerpts:

Hon. G.M. McCarthy (SC): ...It is my pleasure to announce...the $75,000 grant which is the continuation of the grant that the Vancouver Status of Women had last year....
Unfortunately Mr. Chairman, in the debate that will follow I appreciate that all members of the House and certainly members of the public will want more money for various programmes.
...unfortunately we have not been able to give more money...the amount of money that was left for us to work with was very much less than the previous government had in their first term of office.

Ms. R. Brown (NDP): ...Although I am glad that they (VSW) have received $75,000 from the provincial government I am really very, very disappointed that the grant allotted to them did not come closer to the request which they put in.
...in last year's budget there were $200,000 budgeted for the Office of the Co-ordinator of the Status of Women for the province. That office has now been terminated. It had been my hope, however, that $200,000 would have reappeared somewhere else in the Provincial Secretary's budget....
...for the most part, the 200 women's groups around the province are still totally and completely dependent on either public funding or government funding...I think it's important that the Provincial Secretary outline for us her criteria and the machinery which she will be using to deal with all these requests for funding....
...what kind of intra-governmental network do you have to deal with the problems that are brought to your attention surrounding the area of women?
...I want to talk about the whole issue of equal employment opportunities that you are responsible for... A committee was set up by the previous government -- what has happened to that committee?
...I would like to hear from you on the whole issue of affirmative action
....If I can take press reports seriously, you said that women can achieve anything they want through this government as long as they are serious about it. (Interjection from the floor) You were misquoted were you? In any event, I think I actually have the clipping here. What I am really hoping is that what you were doing at this time was revealing some government policy in this area.

...there are a couple of other serious things I wonder if you're looking at, and that's the whole business of women in prisons. There was funding last year for a programme...(of) preemployment training for women in Oakalla. I'm wondering what happened to that particular programme.

Mr. Gibson (Lib): ...One of the most difficult things for governments is, in a sense, to buy the bullets that outside organizations are going to shoot at them. When you fund outside groups that do have the job of representing the interests of particular groups of people in society you have to accept the fact that if they do their jobs well, they are from time to time going to make things uncomfortable for governments. But at the same time they will be helping governments do their basic job which is to make society run better.... So,...I am very glad she made this grant on that account. I hope the government will continue to have the courage to go along that route.
...I hope and trust, Mr. Chairman, that next year's funding will be expanded. I would apply this to the funding of all women's organizations, not just VSW.
...Mr. Premier, who just came in...I've asked the Provincial Secretary to represent to you that there should be some kind of women's office in the government--probably reporting to you --which would be constantly seized of the advancement of women's rights in the public service of British Columbia....
...the women's movement is unquestionably the most important movement in human affairs, at least in North America, in the second half of this century.

Mr. S. Wallace(P.C.): ...that $75,000 grant is one of the best deals this government has made in a long time....
...It's such an enormous issue, the whole question of trying to correct some of the archaic practices in our society regarding women.... But, education, Mr. Chairman, is certainly the key.
...the principle of equal pay for work of equal value is so fundamentally just and right that I don't think it is a debatable issue. The issue is how we go about implementing that. Goodness knows, the best place to start would be at the largest employer in the province, and that's the provincial government.

Mrs. E.E. Dailly(NDP): ...whenever any debates took place on women back in 1967, right through I'd say to the beginning of the 1970s in this House, the whole atmosphere in this legislature was entirely different...if any of us stood up to talk about women at that time, we were greeted with laughter and cynicism from many of our male colleagues....We don't have the laughter anymore, but we've gone to the extreme, where I find many of our male colleagues are very silent on this issue. I hope maybe we'll hear more from more of the members of both sexes on this vital matter of women's rights.

Mrs. P. Jordan (S.C.): ...We can't go around inducing women to be liberated by working in Woolworth's 8 hours a day. We have to also help them understand the value of their ability to achieve their own economic independence.
...I hope that the realignment of the interest in women's concerns will appear very soon through the Provincial Secretary's department....

Mr. King (NDP): ...I think the Provincial Secretary can do a great deal in terms of conditioning the attitude of public service people.... the Provincial Secretary is going to have to be very tenacious and she may have to take off the velvet gloves once in a while to persuade some of the mandarins that, by golly, there is a problem here....
...It is obviously going to be necessary to collaborate with other ministries....that's the only way it can be tackled....

Mrs. B.B. Wallace(NDP): ...the point that I particularly wanted to make was there is a very great difference in the needs of women in the more remote and rural areas than there is in the urban areas. Those are the needs that have not been really dealt with as fully as have the needs of the urban woman.
...Particularly, I'm thinking of the farm wife who perhaps participates fully in the occupation in which her husband is involved--they jointly operate a farm--...but very often the economic security is not there.
...I would ask the Provincial Secretary to comment and give us her thoughts on this situation with rural women.

Mr. L.B. Kahl(S.C.): ...many briefs have been presented to the government from various organizations of women throughout our province. Frankly, I think the time has come for some action. Many of these briefs are excellent....I think collectively we should implement many of those programmes and work together....

Hon. Mrs. McCarthy(S.C.) (in response):
Re funding levels: ...the taxpayers of British Columbia today are carrying on their backs the excesses, the extravagances, and the mismanagement of the previous government that left us less funds to do anything with than we would have wanted to do.
$200,000 : ...the $200,000 which (Brown) mentioned ...reappears under Vote 164 in the grants vote. So that $200,000 goes for special projects in grants, and women can apply and have done so. Under that vote we have given contributions to women's organizations. (Editor: who?)
Money and opportunities : ... I would just like to reiterate that the common problem you have seen in the discussion on women's rights in the province of B.C. has been one of poverty... right on the track of good economy, then and only then can we solve...the very real economic problems and those very real social problems.that the member (Brown) raises.

Rosemary Brown responds: ...I want to draw to the Provincial Secretary's attention that we've been waiting for 2,000 years for the country to get moving so that we can come to grips with our poverty. I wonder whether she could give us some kind of indication as to how much longer we're going to have to wait.

Hon. Mrs. McCarthy: ...What I'd just like to say in reply to the last comment is that I think we've come a long way in 2000 years....

WHAT'S OUT THERE?

The following are some of the numbers that are most often requested from the Vancouver Status of Women office. They are only a smattering of the various groups and services in the Vancouver area and are being printed here as helpful starting points -- each of the groups or services should be able to supply further referral numbers.

general

COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE: 1946 West Broadway, Vancouver. 736-3661. Funded by Vancouver Resources Board & United Way. Publishes Directory of Services for Greater Vancouver which lists everything -- counselling services, ethnic organizations, Housing Registries, Consumer Assistance, etc.

FAMILY SERVICES: 731-4951. Family counselling, marriage counselling, uncoupling counselling for newly divorced or separated, workshops.

abortion

CARAL: Est. 1975 as B.C. branch of Canadian Association to Repeal Abortion Laws. Leave message at VSW Office, 2029 West 4th St, Vancouver. 736-3746.

audio-visual

ISIS/WOMEN AND MEDIA:2185 West 4th, Vancouver. 731-3324. Films, tapes, workshop, darkroom. Will assist in planning program of films.

VIDEO INN: 261 Powell, Vancouver. 688-4336. Non-profit library with collection of non-commercial video tapes. Loans cassettes, players. Reference library, viewing facilities.

WOMEN IN FOCUS: Box 85, S.U.B., UBC. Program on Cable 10 Vancouver, Mon. nights at 9 p.m. A-V tapes available on loan.

WOMAN ALIVE: VSW, 2029 West 4th, Vancouver. 736-3746. Program on Cable 10 Vancouver, Wed. nights at 9:30. A-V tapes of programs available on loan.

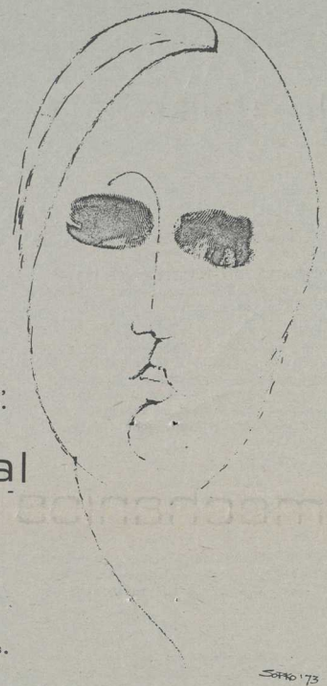
bookstore

VANCOUVER WOMEN'S BOOKSTORE: 804 Richards, Vancouver. 684-0523. Feminist literature. Mail order catalogue available.

childcare

DAYCARE INFO CENTRE: 873-2633.

CHILD CARE FEDERATION: Ran out of funding so no longer has an office or phone. Correspondence can be sent c/o 155 East 26th, Vancouver.



directory

THE WOMEN'S DIRECTORY: A BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY FOR B.C.: Do you want to find a dog kennel run by a woman? a female chiropractor? investment counsellor? travel agent? Look her up in the Women's Directory produced by Women Together. 50¢ from The Women's Directory, c/o No. 205, 6750 Balmoral St., Burnaby, B.C. or from VSW office, 2029 West 4th, Vancouver.

education

BCTF EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, STATUS OF WOMEN PROGRAM: Nora Grove, 2235 Burrard Vancouver. 731-8121. Phone Nora for names of BCTF Status of Women contact in your area, and for info on Women's Studies Course, etc.

UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CENTRES: Several Universities and Colleges have women's centres. Phone the college or university and inquire.

WOMEN'S STUDIES: Phone the university or college and ask for women's studies department.

CONTINUING EDUCATION, UBC: 685-3934. Life planning service offering assistance in planning education, new career, etc.

B.C. WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION: 749 East Broadway, Vancouver. 266-4483. Est. 1974 by university teachers to create an independent research centre on status of women and to encourage women's studies for B.C. campuses.

employment

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAU: 4211 Kingsway, Vancouver. 434-5761, local 298. Chris Waddell. Est. 1966 by provincial Dept. of Labour to provide upgrade training for women. Employers' CR workshops, labour standards counselling.

federation

BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN: Federation of women's groups formed to maximize the collective strength of the Women's Movement. For info about BCFW and membership requirements contact Jan Lancaster, 1061 East 40th Vancouver. 327-6277.

fraser valley

ISHTAR WOMEN'S CENTRE: 2420 Montrose Ave, Abbotsford or Box 613 Aldergrove, 859-7681. For information on services, groups, etc. in Fraser Valley.

graphics

AD COMPANY: 1011 Commercial Drive, Vancouver. 253-8931. Est. by Pacific Women's Graphic Arts Co-op. Advertising services; layout; typesetting; photography; design.

health

VANCOUVER WOMEN'S HEALTH COLLECTIVE: 1520 West 6th, Vancouver. 736-6696. Birth control and abortion info. Self-help workshops. Referrals to supportive doctors. Speakers. Newsletter.

PINE CLINIC: 1985 West 4th, Vancouver 736-2391. Free medical clinic, informal, for people not covered by medical insurance or with a doctor of their own.

MENTAL PATIENTS' ASSOCIATION: 738-5177 or 738-1422. Helps people who have been in mental institutions and others isolated and emotionally uptight. Drop in and residence.

housing

TENANT'S RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN: Group formed to combat the restrictions placed on families with children. Margaret DeWees, 274-5927.

B.C. TENANT'S ORGANIZATION: Rm.#4, 199 East 8, Vancouver. 872-0296. Organized to protect rights of tenants.

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE RESIDENT ASSOCIATION: 616 East Cordova, Vancouver. 253-8235. Housing problems, tenants' advocate, community development, information, day care centres, monthly newspaper.

TRANSITION HOUSE: 874-5116. Emergency housing for women.

legal aid, ♀rights

VANCOUVER STATUS OF WOMEN: 2029 West 4th Ave. Vancouver. 736-3746. 9 a.m. 5 p.m. weekdays. Ombudstaff available for para-legal counselling. Referrals to feminist lawyers.

WOMEN'S LEGAL AID COLLECTIVE: 253 E. 11th, Vancouver. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mon. & Wed. Est. in 1971 by female law students. Free legal counselling in marital law, debt, immigration, women's rights. Provides assistance in Do Your Own Divorce programs.

HUMAN RIGHTS BRANCH: 4211 Kingsway, Vancouver. 434-5761, local 317. Women who feel they have been discriminated against according to the B.C. Human Rights Code should contact one of the Human Rights Officers.

VANCOUVER PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL: Suite 610, 207 West Hastings, Vancouver. 681-7532. Series of free law classes including Women and the Law. Also materials, tapes available.

COMMUNITY LEGAL ASSISTANCE: 257 E. 11th, Vancouver. 872-0271. Legal assistance for low-income people, advice on consumer affairs, UIC appeals, pamphlets on legal issues.

LAW STUDENTS LEGAL ADVICE PROGRAM: sponsored by Vancouver Legal Assistance Society (VCLAS). Law students holding free legal clinics throughout summer in several community locations in Greater Vancouver. Phone 872-0271 for info.

FREE FINANCIAL ADVICE: 4 UBC Commerce students are holding financial clinics in 2 locations in Vancouver (funded by Dept. of Labour): 1068 Davie St. from 10-6 Mon. - Thurs. and Tues. 7-9; and at Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House, 4065 Victoria, 10-6 Mon-Thurs, and Thurs. 7-9.

lesbianism

BCFW RIGHTS OF LESBIAN WOMEN CAUCUS: 736-7891.

low income

FEDERATED ANTI-POVERTY GROUPS:#3 - 411 6th St. New Westminster. 525-3658. Tries to get help in various problem areas for lower-income people. Informative newsletter.

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE. 412 East Hastings, Vancouver. 255-1614. Drop-in centre for women, some ombudservice, small lending library, clothes distribution, some recreational activities.

mechanics

MOM'S REPAIRS: 4465 Quebec, Vancouver. 876-0635. Open by appointment. Lessons in car maintenance for individuals or groups.

media

CBC WOMEN'S GROUP: P.O. Box 4600, Vancouver. 665-6836. Pat Kirk. Est. 1974 to improve status of female CBC employees and media image presented by CBC about women.

programs

COMMUNITY CENTRES: Most Community Centres have a wide range of recreational, social and cultural programs for women. Babysitting is often provided at a minimal charge. See the telephone directory for Community Centre nearest you.

L.I.F.E.: Living Is For Everyone, YWCA, 580 Burrard, Vancouver. 683-2531. Self-help group for women who have been divorced, widowed, separated.

rape

RAPE RELIEF: 1027 West Broadway, Vancouver. 723-1613. 24 hour crisis line, counselling, court accompaniments, third party reports, speakers.

resources

VANCOUVER STATUS OF WOMEN: 2029 West 4th Ave. Vancouver. 736-3746. Reference library, clipping files, pamphlets, feminist newspaper, etc.

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE:750 Burrard St. Vancouver. 685-3934. Drop-in centre, vocational planning info, lecture-discussion series, referrals.

B.C. WOMEN'S RESEARCH CENTRE: 45 Kingsway , Vancouver. Phone Elinore King, 731-3832 for times open. Books, papers, unpublished papers, etc. + directory of consultants.

single parents

CANADIAN SINGLE PARENTS OF VANCOUVER: Suite 102, 3680 Oak, Vancouver. 738-6335.

CROSSREACH SINGLE PARENTS: 214, 1811 West 16, Vancouver. 736-1817.

PARENTS WITHOUT PARTNERS: 2097, West 44, Vancouver. 266-7624.

women's centres

There are women's centres or groups in many communities. Phone Vancouver Status of Women 736-3746 for locations. Also, Guide to B.C. Women's Movement, published by WCWN and soon to be updated and reprinted by VSW will list all Women's Centres in B.C.

union

SERVICE, OFFICE AND RETAIL WORKERS UNION OF CANADA (SORWUC): 2049 Turner St. Vancouver. 253-5059. Set. 1973 as union for secretaries, waitresses, salesclerks, daycare workers, cleaning women, etc.

writers

CORRECTIVE COLLECTIVE: 372 East 5th, North Vancouver. 980-6990. Feminist historical writers' collective.

GROWING ROOM COLLECTIVE: 1918 Waterloo, Vancouver. Produces Room of One's Own quarterly feminist literary mag.

MAKARA: bimonthly magazine produced by Pacific Women's Graphic Arts Co-operative Association, 1011 Commercial Drive, Vancouver. 253-8931.

Our thanks to the anonymous donor of these books: The Baby Trap, The Female Eunuch, Sisterhhod is Powerful, Space, the Scrapbook of my Divorce, and Margaret Sanger(autobiography).

As the office is becoming more of a drop-in centre in addition to a feminist workplace, donations of non-sexist kids books to keep the little people happy while we talk with mothers would be much appreciated.

In an effort to revamp staff responsibilities to counter the overload, we are making an extra effort this year to involve more members and volunteer help around the office. Is anyone interested in taking over book reviews? This is a simple task involving: a)ordering review copies from publishers; b) arranging for women to review the books; c)sending copies of reviews to the publisher; d)maybe writing a few reviews of your own; e)liasion with Kinesis. It requires that you drop into the office once a week to pick up books, write some letters, make some phone calls. It would be good for someone who likes to read and/or write. If you are interested, call 736-3746.

Would anyone like to review one or more of the following books? There is no time limit on how soon you must submit a review, just as soon as possible:

WOMEN LOOK AT PSYCHIATRY, Dorothy Smith and Sara David
PRIVILEGE OF SEX,(A CENTURY OF CANADIAN WOMEN), Eve Zaremba
THE LAW IS NOT FOR WOMEN,(A LEGAL HANDBOOK FOR WOMEN), June Callwood
BIRTH CONTROL, Tarvex Tucker
MENSTRUATION, Hilary Maddux
EMILY CARR, Rosemary Neering
LAURA SECORD, John Bassett
ONE PARENT FAMILIES, Dulan Barber
LETTERS OF VIRGINIA WOOLF 1888-1912, Nigel Nicolson
EVONNE! (ON THE MOVE), Evonne Goolagong
SHE NAMED IT CANADA, by the Corrective Collective
WORDS AND WOMEN, Kate Swift

- Karen Richardson

BOOK REVIEW

THE IMPSTONE, Susan Musgrave

Susan Musgrave, the young B.C. poet, has great natural gifts which she is using early, amply, and with a justified confidence in her own poetic voice. This collection of short poems is her fourth by the age of 25. Her first collection, Songs of the Sea-Witch, was published during her teens. Besides these she has written a children's book, Gullband. She is obviously a productive as well as a talented writer.

Her real originality makes her poems seem difficult, even inaccessible, at a first reading. Her structures are apparently simple enough, but her treatment of her themes, which are in one sense the perennial themes - mortality, loss, parting, the relationships of love - is much more complex, strange and unexpected, and so is her treatment of her repeated natural images - moon, sea, forest, frog, bone, stone and so on. But after repeated readings the ear grows accustomed to her voice, and then her meanings gradually emerge, though they are still elusive sometimes. And, in any case, a first reading of Susan Musgrave is immediately rewarding as she uses words skillfully and musically, and at times with a biteing wit.

She also uses with a natural sureness in her writing her heritage both as a woman and also as a Vancouver Islander. The Landscape which her poems assume is the landscape of the Canadian Pacific Coast with its cold seas and forests; while her myths and images- ravan, eagle, frog, whale- draw upon her interest in Haida culture. She spent three years while writing these poems in the Queen Charlotte Islands, and I think this is evident in the quality of the poems, for though she is essentially concerned with the world of her own imagination, the facts she uses are fully known and digested facts, not the romantic guesses of the city dweller.

Susan Musgrave's gift was recognized early: her work has been published by good poetry magazines here, in the U.S., and in England; she has been acclaimed by reviewers - 'the next major poet in English Canada' speculates one writer - and supported over a period of years by the Canada Council. Reviewers don't go on producing bouquet after bouquet, however, and the reception of The Impstone has been less delighted. Some critics have suggested that she is at the moment writing too much, too quickly, and not working her poems hard enough. It is true that they are limited to a cold, moonlit world and that there is an enormous range of resonance, meaning and poetic language that is utterly beyond her as yet. Her poems are charming and fantastic: possibly it is necessary for her to struggle more with her material and abandon some of the charm, and even some of the fantasy, before she can wholly fulfill her promise. Otherwise she may find herself trapped in the delicacies of minor art. Even so, The Impstone is well worth re-reading and savouring.

- June Sturrock

BOOK REVIEW

HER OWN WOMAN: PROFILES OF TEN CANADIAN WOMEN, Myrna Kostash, Melinda McCracken, Valerie Miner, Erna Paris, Heather Robertson

Bored with the theme of woman as victim, the authors of this book decided to produce these ten profiles as a kind of counterweight. Each profile examines a woman who has strongly and successfully rejected the victim-role and become as completely herself as possible, hence the title. The subjects range from totally unknown women, such as Kathleen, the law student, and Edith McCracken, who spent a lifetime in the traditional female roles, to the famous, such as Judy LaMarsh and Margaret Atwood. In age, these women range from their twenties to their seventies.

This makes for some interesting, occasionally exciting, reading, though the book is not uniformly well written, and some of it is flawed by the same air of slightly obtuse complacency as the introduction; surely the authors cannot really believe, as they seem to suggest, that the victim role is necessarily chosen and not imposed.

Some of the profiles are excellent, however. I particularly enjoyed reading about Madeleine Parent, the Quebec union leader. She is a natural fighter, and in the Quebec textile industries in the early 1940's, she found a battle worth fighting: 'Children from the age of 10 worked 55 hours a week for as little as 18¢ an hour...Most of the men worked 65 hours a week... Women suffered most from favouritism since sex was a common trade-off - better jobs were available to women who slept with their male superiors ...Children were punished or misused ...and any one of any age who used the bathroom more than twice a day had his pay docked.' Madeleine Parent fought for unionization and won: she is in the habit of winning. Erna Paris, the author of this profile, admires this strength greatly, but also points out Madeleine Parent's tendency to simplify issues and to manipulate people. This is a piece of honest, informative writing. So too is Valerie Miner's piece on Abby Hoffman, the athlete, activist and university teacher, another splendidly energetic woman - her favourite pejoratives are 'sloth' and 'indolence'. She emerges as an essentially independent and even isolated character. This is obviously in part the result of her exceptional upbringing, which freed her from the usual adolescent period of obsession with her appearance and sexual attractions. Not only was this not expected of her by her parents; it would have made her ridiculous in their eyes. So she was able to enjoy in freedom the strength and skill of both body and mind with their support, and with her mother's fine example before her. The mutual respect bred in the family by this attitude was lasting.

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Indeed, this book shows clearly how much of the strength of such women springs from the example or excouragement of one or both parents. Madeleine Parent's family, though disagreeing with her, respected and supported her. Margaret Atwood's parents brought her up to be a free, independent person, as they both were. Barbara Frum speaks of herself as 'the third generation of a really matriarchal family', while Kathleen, too, says that both her grandmother and her mother ran their families. Only the painter, Esther Warkov, seems to see her achievement as something which happened in spite of her family. This book certainly increases one's sense of parental responsibility!

Some of the book is rather disappointing. The profiles of both the artists, Esther Warkov and Margaret Atwood, are interesting and informative enough, but interviewers' tone is somehow uncomprehending about the nature of their work. And the profiles of Judy LaMarsh and Barbara Frum, while competent, are totally insensitive: readable though they are, they leave the reader indifferent. This is not a fault with the book as a whole; most of it is stimulating and involving.

June Sturrock

YOU & THE LAW

This is the second of a series of columns written by the staff of the Vancouver People's Law School. More information about each topic can be obtained by calling the People's Law School (681-7532) and ordering the booklets mentioned below. The Vancouver People's Law School offers free courses for lay people on various areas of the law. For a copy of the summer schedule, call the above number.

FAMILY COURT ORDERS

The first column (July KINESIS) explained Family Court support orders. The Family Court can also make orders relating to custody and access (visiting rights) to children.

Separated parents who agree about custody of their children can sign an agreement. The separation agreement can be registered in Family Court and the registered agreement is enforceable as if it is a Family Court custody order. Therefore, if your spouse breaks the agreement you can contact the Family Court to have it enforced.

When the parents cannot agree as to custody, either one can apply to the Family Court for an order as to custody and access (visiting rights). A temporary order can be made quickly in an emergency situation, for example where one parent threatens to take the children away. Contact the Family Court immediately if this situation arises. The temporary order is effective until there can be a full hearing as to the merits of the custody application.

As custody hearings are serious matters, a parent should obtain legal advice; a parent who qualifies financially can obtain legal aid. In the special Unified Family Courts in Richmond and Surrey, the Family Advocate at the Court is appointed as the lawyer to represent the interests of the children.

At the trial, the Court hears evidence as to the parents' financial circumstances, their home environment and their plans for the future care of the children. The Court must decide who is to have custody based on what is in the best interests of the children. The 'best interests' of the child is determined by the facts of each case. The Court looks for a stable, supportive home environment where the child will be happiest.

For more information about Family Court call the Vancouver People's Law School and order the Family Court Procedure booklet. Or contact your Family Court: Vancouver 255-5131, Burnaby 525-6461, Richmond 273-1044, North Vancouver 980-1044, West Vancouver 926-7521, Surrey 584-8111, Delta 946-7694.

ISIS

IS ISIS DEAD?

ISIS: WOMEN'S MEDIA is well known in B.C. Mo Simpson, staff member of Isis, says"It is amazing--fantastic-- to see how wide our network is! No matter where we went in B.C. there were people using our services."

Isis is a women's media centre for 16 mm films, video tapes, slide/sound productions, audio tapes, and print packages (all on loan free except for the cost of postage, insurance and maintenance). Isis also shares its experience and expertise -- they will teach women how to use equipment; how to plan programmes; how to guide discussion groups; how to do photography, recording,etc. Their darkroom facilities are available to women. Isis also strives to fill the gaps in existing materials -- if there is nothing, or little, available on an issue they will produce a 16mm film, video tape,etc.(a recent production on menopausal women has been widely used).

In January 1976, Isis sent a proposal to the Provincial Secretary (whose office had provided funds for two years) asking for funds to continue their work. The service Isis provides has a provincial base and they feel it should be supported by the provincial government. For some reason, the Provincial Secretary forwarded the proposal to a cultural group in Vancouver who rejected it as being completely inappropriate for their organization. Isis then decided, in recognition of the oft-stated need for monetary restraint, to cut their budget to the bare bones (from $67,000 to $21,000, which would mean that only 2 of the 5½ staff would be salaried) and re-submit to the Provincial Secretary. Support letters showing the province wide usage of the group's services were also sent.

During the months that followed Isis hopefully sent off more support letters, evaluations of their films by users, and a list of all the groups and people all over the province who were booking their services (they are usually booked solid). The list included women's groups, health units, church groups, schools, women's studies programmes at colleges. Federation of Labour, National Film Board, Rape Relief, sororities, art groups, community groups, Parent-Teacher groups, Indian Friendship Centres, Crisis Centres. The one official piece of communication they received during this time was a letter from the Provincial Secretary thanking them for the list.

However, Isis was in communication with an administrative officer of the Provincial Secretary's office who assured them in several telephone conversations that he had recommended that they be funded and "three groups will get funding and you're one of them." When they inquired at Secretary of State about the advisibility of submitting a proposal there, they were informed that officers at Secretary of State had had similar conversations with this officer regarding provincial secretary funding for Isis. Believing that in a time of fiscal restraint they should be careful not to hinder another group's chances for funds, Isis agreed not to apply to Secretary of State.

Encouraged by their phone conversations, Isis spent the last of their money on printing and distributing 1000 new catalogues instead of taking salaries.

On July 14th the ax fell. A short letter from the Hon. Grace McCarthy, Provincial Secretary, arrived, informing them that money was tight and "In assessing your programme, my Department recommends that distribution of films through the educational system could best be handled through other organizations such as the University or Department of Education, in order to carry on this service. A copy of this letter is being sent to the Minister of Education for his information."

Marian Bancroft of Isis staff, points out that this suggestion is not feasible -- both their base of service and their materials are extremely broad and extremely varied. Isis topics range through Health, Native Women, Welfare, Employment, Socialization and Stereotyping, Women and the Law, Women's Art, Sexuality, B.C. Pioneer Women, Working Mothers, Menopause, Daycare, Welfare, Marriage, Women in China, and more.

Also, Marian points out, Isis approached the Department of Education about funding last year and were told that they were not appropriate.

The unkindest cut of all was the concluding sentence of the Provincial Secretary's letter,"I trust that your programme will be continued."

"How?" demanded Mo Simpson, "This is how people are burned out. You put everything you have into the work you are doing -- and just hold on and try to scrape by -- none of us at Isis has had a salary of more than $400 a month -- and your fate is in someone's hands and you wait and wait to know.... How are we suppose to continue?"

If you think the death of Isis is a blow to the whole women's movement in B.C. and will mean a loss to the great variety of women's and community groups, schools, etc. that relied on their services, WRITE and tell the Provincial Secretary, the Hon. Grace McCarthy. WRITE to your MLA too -- Isis services have been used in every riding in this province.

- Jo Lazenby

NORTHERN NOTES

Diana Bissell (former VSW Membership Coordinator and now Community Education Consultant on Women's Issues for Secretary of State, based in Prince George) sneds us chatty accounts of her adventures in Northern B.C. to be shared with the readers of KINESIS. Diana would love to get letters: Diana Bissell, 210 - 550 Victoria St. Prince George, B.C.

June 6/76.

Dear Sisters:

I have just come back from a 9 day road trip -- half of which was spent with Gail Borst and Judy Patterson.

(Gail Borst is Women's Organizer for B.C. Federation of Labour & Judy Patterson has just been elected Chairwoman of NDP Women's Committee.)

We drove up to Terrace for the May 29 women's conference there, then on to Prince Rupert where Gail and Judy met with Union and NDP women and I spent a lot of time with the Prince Rupert Options for Women group. Then I got on ye olde Greyhound bus and zipped back to Hazelton, Smithers and then Prince george. On Tuesday it's back on the bus to visit Dawson Creek and Fort St. John.

First impressions of the land -- great strength in the vast rolliness -- gorgeous mixture of jackpine and birch trees. As you move northwest and hit the Buckley Valley the singularly beautiful mountains just take away one's breath. Following the Skeena down to the coast is a TRIP and I wished I had a canoe. Interesting to watch spring happen at different times in different places -- fun to watch the sun set in Rupert at 11 p.m.

And it is so great to be welcomed by so many women everywhere. Many of them came to the Rally--and we do an "old times" hug and start talking. Others are regular correspondents with VSW and it is great to put a face with their signatures and addresses. Most of them are new names though-- and my address book is bulging.

I met alot of people at the conference in Terrace and enjoyed the well organized day of speakers that had been set up by Terrace Women's Organization. It was a good learning experience for me too--I had been asked to speak about my new job, etc,etc and it was interesting to see how that kind of formal "stand up in front of the class" talk went over compared to just "mooching around" and being with people. You hear, feel, and learn much more when you take the time to stay in one place for awhile and let people get to know you on their terms.

Hazelton was great--20 women got together and talked about what kind of women's group they want and need--for themselves and for the community. In Smithers a lot of work is being done by the local Indian Friendship Centre with a Native Women's Cultural Group, and in Prince Rupert the Options for Women group invited counsellors from all the schools to participate in a conversation on sexism in education -- WOW -- did we ever learn a lot about their perspectives on that topic! In Mackenzie we went through a stud mill with Mary Halliday (a woman who has worked there for 2 years) and also met with Joan Kotarski and Linda Kelly Smith who eked a tiny women's centre program out of a LIP grant and are now scrambling for funds to keep some kind of women's program running in this company town of 6,000 where there isn't even a community centre.

Really am enjoying all the resource material listed in KINESIS -- and am missing my easy access to the piles of KINESIS in the back room! I hoard the 3 or 4 issues you send me and give them out only to very deperate people! Maybe we should open up a northern VSW warehouse!

Love, Diana

July 8/76.

Dear Sisters:

Well, so far I have been out on the road a total of 5 weeks and have covered the highway from Prince Rupert to Dawson Creek. In the last month I have been away 17 days--mainly in the northwest area. Had a wonderful time with the Prince Rupert Options for Women group--we did a day long workshop together on "Priorities - personal and group". Out of that meeting came a constitution for the group (first one) and a new feeling of energy. The group found that once they had laid out their personal reasons for belonging to the organization they could more easily discuss a structure and priority actions.

Spent 3 days in Kitimat finding out what it is like to live in a company town and meeting the terrific people of that community. Kitimat Women's Organization wanted to go through a workshop similar to the Prince Rupert one so we arranged for M.J. Patterson of the Rupert group to come down and "do" one with them a week later--and it worked well too. The K.W.O. are doing a survey of employment needs of women in Kitimat this summer--should prove to be interesting reading.

Went to the monthly meeting of the Prince George's Women Centre.last night. They have produced a budget to handle the money they were left from a grant from Gene (Gene Errington Provincial Status of Women Coordinator under last government) and ideas were flowing hot and heavy. Their political lobbying group is beginning an assertiveness training course and is in the midst of planning a workshop on municiple government in the fall. This is a wonderful idea--so many of us don't remember our early Social Studies classes where we were "taught" how local government functions. They also have an "Artistic Endeavours" committee that will be making silkscreens to turn out feminist notepaper, and T-shirts -- as well as doing posters for local groups. They hope this will enable them to become partially self-sufficient.

The Terrace Women's Organization is continuing to operate their Child Minding Centre this summer -- looks like there won't be any more funding for this project in the fall. The Child Minding Centre offers quality babysitting for a minimum fee to any woman who wishes to use it -- and the usage is high. Women who have a medical appointment, have shopping to do, or are in town from the "bush" and need a few hours to themselves all make use of it. Lesley Weatherston has written out a full report of the Centre and how it operates if any of you are interested in looking into the idea. (L. Weatherston, 4926 Gair St. Terrace).

I am just about finished a "first meeting" with most feminist groups in the North and will be sending out a mini-newsletter at the end of July to about 80 people telling them what kinds of things I have uncovered and sharing some of the action ideas people have talked about.

This is nowhere near an in-depth report on what's happening in the No North -- but I have to run and catch the Greyhound bus to Vanderhoof, Fraser Lake and Burns Lake now! Suffice it to say that the movement is alive and well up here!

Love,
Diana.

CR group

A Lesbian CR group has begun at VSW. Structured CR's have been offered through VSW since last winter, but many women have indicated a need for a CR group specifically for Lesbians.

There are 8 women in this first group. The format is semi-structured. There is no leader or facilitator, but the structure of going around the group, giving each women a chance to speak or pass is followed. Part of the agreed upon structure also includes a specific time period, day and place for the group.

One of the underlying principles of structured consciousness raising, that each woman's experience is valuable, and that the sharing of her experiences is valuable to the group, is adhered to.

Among the topics suggested by women at the first organizational meeting are: Lesbianism/Feminism; Lesbianism vs. Bisexuality; Being Open in Public; Popular Myths about Lesbians; Labels - Dyke, Lesbian, Woman Identified Woman; Role Playing (butch/femme), etc. Each CR meeting will use a topic from a group compiled list of about 20 such topics for weekly discussion.

In addition to gaining support from each other, the aim of a Lesbian CR is to broaden our awareness of ourselves as women, as lesbians, as feminists.

Anyone interested in being part of a second Lesbian CR can phone VSW at 736-3746 to start a list for a group to begin in August or September.

(P.P.)

SISTERS

dreams

POETS, ARTISTS, DREAMERS

A group of women is compiling a newsletter of Nightmares, Sweet & Sour Dreams, Prophecies, Visions, Waking Dreams, Inexplicable Coincidences -- as experienced and told by women. They want accounts of individual dreams and dream series, and poems or stories based on dreaming.

Contributors will be repaid in copies of the DREAMLETTER. Send dream materials to: Keotancthur, 4265a Rue Clark, Montreal, Quebec.

port alberni

The Port Alberni Women's Centre, located in the Port Alberni Friendship Centre, 3178 2nd Avenue, will be closed for the months of July and August.

The Centre will open again in September at its regular times, Tuesday and Thursday, 7 to 10 p.m., and Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m. telephone 723-8281.

ishtar

Ishtar, 2420 Montrose Ave., Abbotsford or Box 613 Aldergrove.

Ishtar Collective has their monthly meeting the first Wednesday of every month. Call 859-7681.

Call Langley Family Services (534-7522) for information about Big Sisters, Women Over Forty, Parents in Crisis, and Drug and Alcohol counselling services.

The lobby team for Chilliwack MLA Harvey Schroeder has had very little luck in meeting with their MLA. They report a disappointing trip to Victoria to an arranged meeting only to find he was too busy to see them. They will keep trying.

A Rural Lesbian group is forming in the Fraser Valley. For information call 530-3477.

poco

Port Coquitlam Area Women's Centre, P.O. Box 243, Port Coquitlam, B.C. 941-6311.

Poco has a Speakers' Bureau. If your group would like to hear what the Centre and the women's movement is all about contact them for a speaker.

All women are welcome to join in the weekly softball games at Sun Valley Park (Port Coq. - North Side) every Friday at 7 p.m. -- weather permitting!

The Poco lobby team met with MLA George Kerster June 13th. For details of the meeting contact the Centre. Poco reports that Kerster continues to make himself accesible for discussions and is sending the Provincial Hansard to the Poco Centre.

kelowna

The Kelowna Status of Women Society is disappointed to announce that the Kelowna Women's Centre will close down permanently on July 16, 1976. This closure is due to the impossibility of obtaining additional financial assistance.

Chairperson Patti Dyck says,"We regret having to make this decision but have found no other alternative. Without funding assistance we are unable to maintain the Centre any longer. The services to the community have already been reduced substantially, but we are unable to continue even in this limited capacity."

The Kelowna Women's Centre first opened in February of 1975 under an L.I.P. Grant with a seven-woman staff. When the grant was over in July of 1976, it was able to remain open with one salaried worker on funds supplied by the Regional District and the now defunct Provincial Co-ordinator of the Status of Women office.

Contact person: Patti Dyck, 420B Holbrook Rd. West, Kelowna, B.C. 765-1518.

Listen to PERSPECTIVES -- The Women's Newscast on CJOV - FM(104) Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. & Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.

B.C.F.W.

B.C. Federation of Women Standing Committee will be holding their business meeting in Prince George on August 28 and 29. Two workshops will be presented, one of which will be on Indian Land Claims. The second workshop will be on one of the following topics: How to Organize, Women Understanding Women, Problems of Women in Prison.

prince george

Prince George Women's Centre, 1306 7th Ave. Prince George, 562-1762. Prince George Women's Centre is open every afternoon and every Wednesday night. Women are invited to come in to browse and talk and share experiences.

A Women In Poverty group is working to inform people on low incomes of their rights and how to improve their situation. Anyone interested in working with this group can contact Sharon Bradshaw at 562-7807 or Terry Chaney at 962-6869.

CR Group -- if you are interested contact the Centre. A new group may be formed in the fall.

Ask the Centre for a copy of its P.G. Women's Centre Newsletter.

delta

Delta Status of Women will meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the South Delta Library on 56th St. Anyone interested in joining the Newsletter Committee should contact Delores at 943-5882 or Janet at 943-4179. A Political Action Committee is also being formed. Contact Mercia at 943-4080.

victoria

Status of Women Action Group, 8 671 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. 388-6332.

The May issue of SWAG Newsletter contained a supplement on Family Law prepared by the The Family Law Committee of SWAG.

Anyone interested in pursuing the topic of Family Law is invited to attend the Family Law Committee meetings. Contact Linda Sproule-Jones at 477-3324.

SWAG has received $5,938 from Secretary of State for a summer project which includes salaries for three students and office rent until Sept.

queen charlottes

In the fall of 1974, women on the Charlottes began working towards the creation of an all Islands group with branches in each community. In March 1975 the QCI Society for Continuing Self Development became a reality and was registered under the Societies Act. A IWY grant of $3000 was received from the Provincial Government.

The Society is concerned with self development through continuing education and involvement in the community. Its goals include: dispelling apathy, providing an atmosphere conducive to greater creativity, creating and developing self-awareness and self development.

A newsletter is printed..For more information contact the editor: Sharon Finkleman, Box 699, Masset, B.C. 626-3726.

bcwsa

B.C. Women's Studies Association

The BCWSA is alive and well. Their next conference will be held either at Simon Fraser University or Capilano College, October 1st and 2nd 1976. It will be devoted to discussion papers on teaching women's studies, the relation of women's studies to educational institutions, new research, etc. They are calling for submission of study papers relevant to the conference. Deadline for abstracts is July 31, 1976. Please consider contributing to the conference or attending. Membership is $5.00, payable to BCWSA, 4931-6 Avenue, Delta, B.C. (KR)

Vancouver Status of Women and IDERA (International Development Education Resource Centre) will be presenting a film series beginning Sept. 8. Resource people knowledgable in the subject of the film will be on hand to lead the discussion. Charge of $10 for 6 sessions -- registration limited to 20.

Sept. 8: Ways of Seeing (Part IV)
An examination of advertising, how we are persuaded that the purchase of certain consumer items will make us glamorous and enviable . We are consoled with the promise of a dream. What impact do these images have on our personal lives and the ways we perceive our community?
Resource person from ISIS, Women in Film.

Sept. 22: Bottle Babies
The Nestle Corporation through a slick advertising campaign and a policy of hiring native public health nurses have convinced a great many African women to bottle feed their babies. This film documents the devastating results.

Resource person T.B.A.

Complete information on the films, resource people and time and location will be given in September issue of KINESIS.

cap college

WOMEN'S STUDIES

Capilano College in North Vancouver is planning the following Credit courses in Women's Studies this Fall: General Introduction to Women's Studies, Women & Men in Transition, Women in Theatre, Women in Management.

The Women's Studies programme welcomes input from community women. Call coordinator Marsha Trew, 986-1911, local 294.

radio

THE BATTERED WIFE, a CBC Radio documentary first aired in May will be heard again on CONCERNS, September 1 at 9 p.m. on CBC. The program was researched and composed by two VSW members Arlene Gropper and Eve Johnson and features discussions with women who have been beaten, policemen and lawyers. It's good!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

woman alive

The Vancouver Status of Women TV show WOMAN ALIVE is seen on Vancouver Cable 10 TV Wednesday evenings at 9:30 p.m. Video tapes (½ inch) of the shows are in the VSW Audio-Visual Library and can be borrowed for $1 per tape (to cover postage).

Programs for August are:

August 4--Verbal Self Defense: Host: Diana Bissell. Guest: Jo Lazenby. Discussion of what Verbal Self Defense is, what VSW has done with it, and the need for feminists to be aware of how to handle verbal put-downs.

August 11--Media Images of Women: Host: Glinda Sutherland. Guests: Representatives of the Vancouver Status of Women Media Action Group, Carolyn Thomas & Diana Patch.
A discussion using concrete examples of sexism in the media. Particular attention is paid to: the definition of sexism, the problems caused by sexism in society, the concrete steps which can be taken to combat the sexism in the media.

August 18--Christian Feminists: Host: Lee Masters. Guests: Gertrude Townsend & Dorothy Pinnock. Saskatoon Conference on the role of women in Christian Churches is discussed. Notes the emerging feminism in Christianity.

August 25--A Look at the Power Structure (Part I)

Julia Goulden and Gary Onstead examine the power structure and decision-making mechanisms in society and how and why women are excluded from positions of power. The necessity for the development of alternate methods of decision-making is explored in Part II.(to be shown in September).

advice

LAW STUDENTS LEGAL ADVICE PROGRAM

The Law Students Legal Advice Program (sponsored by Vancouver Community Legal Assistance Society) is holding free Legal Advice Clinics at several locations in the Greater Vancouver area. For information on day and evening clinics and locations call 872-0271 or 228-5791.

saltspring

The Rising Spirit Centre on Saltspring Island is presenting a series of workshops, retreats and seminars between July and October. Program fees are based on a sliding scale, depending upon ability to pay.

WOMAN, THE CREATOR: This workshop will expore and celebrate female consciousness using meditation, breathing, massage, yoga for women, movement, fantasy, and sharing to tap the rich creative energy within.
September 3 t0 5. Fee: $35 - $75.

♀ and cars

MOM'S REPAIRS is open by appointment.. for three basic types of work: oil change and maintenance lesson; tune-up lesson; and group workshop

MOM'S REPAIRS is open by appointment. The women at MOM'S will work with you on your car. The following instruction is available:
Oil change and maintenance lesson -- includes oil change, filter change, battery, fan belt maintenance, fluid checks (rad, battery, clutch,brake), how the engine works -- $25 donation.
Tune-up lesson -- includes spark plugs, points, condenser, timing -- $30 donation.
Group workshop -- Mom's will come to community centres, women's centres, or your neighbourhood to work with groups -- $10 per person (6 minimum).

Call 876-0635 or write 4465 Quebec St, Vancouver, B.C.

vecc

VANCOUVER EAST CULTURAL CENTRE

BLACK & BLUE -- Rosalind Keene sings the Blues
August 1, 8:30 p.m. $2.50.

VECC 1895 Venables St. Vancouver. 254-9578.

people's law school—

Learn about your laws through the Vancouver People's Law School's series of FREE law classes. All courses and materials are free. To pre-register call: 681-7532. Note: each course takes a full three evenings.

CIVIL LIBERTIES: August 3,4,5.. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Kitsilano Public Library, 2550 West 10th Ave, Vancouver.
Instructor: Bill Black.
A discussion of the Provincial Human Rights Code: its purpose and its effectiveness and a look at recent cases that have interpreted the Act. A discussion of proposed Criminal Code amendments.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW: August 9,10,11. 7:30-9:30 p.m. YWCA 580 Burrard St.
Instructor: Tim McKenzie.
A discussion of Federal and Provincial statutes affecting the environment; including a discussion of potential areas of law reform. Emphasis will be placed on how the public can participate effectively in environmental control.

cable tv

WOMEN IN FOCUS

WOMEN IN FOCUS is seen on Cable 10 Monday nights at 9 p.m. Members of WOMEN IN FOCUS can be reached at Box 85, S.U.B., UBC. The programs for August are:

August 2-- Holiday

August 9--Women Within Two Cultures

August 16-- Fashion As A Social Control

August--23 Women Composers

August 30--Marie Claire Blais:An Interview

HEALTH

smoking

An article on women and smoking is long overdue. I believe that it has taken me at least two years of study and research to put the facts down in a way that will do more good than harm. So lets look at the facts.

Young women in Canada have become the major target for the tobacco industry. Cigarette advertising is directed at them. Look at any major magazine printed for women and you'll see what I mean! Notice the increase in very young teenage girls smoking on the streets. (Smoking on the streets is not a moral judgement, only to point out the fact that I could not be aware of the increase if it were not publicly visible.)

Cigarette smoking is now classed as the number one killer in North America. We have well documented proof that the fetus is badly effected by a smoking mother, and children in the homes of smoking parents have a poorer standard of health.

Let us examin the hamm that smoking is doing to the women's movement. How many non-smoking women would go back for a second jolt after getting trapped in a smoke-filled meeting room for an afternoon or evening? When we have a health problem of this magnitude, we need some sound answers and guidance to move towards a solution.

1. Smokers find it easier to refrain from smoking when they know that it is harmful and offensive to others.

2. When meeting or working in an enclosed space, refrain from smoking if there are non-smokers present. Do not put the responsibility on the other person by saying "Do you mind if I smoke?". Most women have not yet reached the point where they can comfortably say "yes, I do", thereby depriving you of your so-called pleasure. If you must smoke, go into an unoccupied room, or outside.

3. If you are arranging or chairing a meeting, make it clear from the outset if it will be a smokers' meeting, or a non-smoking meeting with breaks for smokers. With this honest approach, at least the non-smokers can make a real evaluation if they wish to attend. When I phone and ask this question, I invariably get the answer that they don't know.

4. If you decide to make an area "no smoking", remove ashtrays and put up suitable signs. A very good sign for the women's movement would read:
"In consideration of your own health and the health of others, please refrain from smoking."

5. Fill ashtrays with cellophane-wrapped hard candies and display pamplets on smoking and health.

6. Always keep the problem open with lots of free discussion. The silent treatment (we don't have a problem) gets us nowhere.

7. Be willing to engage the help of more knowledgeable people in the field (the help is free). For non-smoking situations contact the United Non-Smokers Society at 228-0525, President Larry Wanjoff, or 261-6658 (Secretary). For anyone who wishes to quit, cantact Marie Tracy, Kick It Classes, at 731-4961. For posters, literature and buttons, and no smoking signs, call 731-4961. Their experience and guidance can make the difference between success and failure.

8. If attendance at your meetings is dwindling away, and women are gradually drifting away, throw some of the old excuses out of the window, the excuses that told you that "women are filled with apathy, indifference, and ignorance", and ask yourself honestly: "could it be they couldn't hack the smoke?"

9. Be willing to remember, that whereas a smoker has built up a resistance to tobacco smoke, a non-smoker has no such resistance, and suffers more from the idling end of a burning cigarette, (smoke that has not been filtered through the lungs or a filter) than a smoker does.

10. Science has scarcely begun to assess the combined effect of cigarette smoke amd chemical pollution that workers are subjected to every working day. (Such chemical pollutants as asbestos, hair spray, plastic solvents. and all petroleum products). The results of research already done, show that this could be the most devastating medical news of the century.

The Third World Conference on Smoking and Health called on the Women's Liberation movement to encourage women to rebel against the old social order, and set a healthy example to one another and to their children by the act of not smoking.

Let us take action so that the young teen age girls who believe they've "come a long way baby", when they light up, do not equate this with equality and freedom, but more accurately with illness and death. Let us do our part to get this message accross to them, by making smoking as socially unacceptable as we can.

Since it was the women's movement that pulled down tha advertising campaign that claimed "the longer the better", (women's legs stretched over a man hole), because it was sexist, it should now take another look at the same kind of advertising and examine it under the heading of women and health.

Sharon Simpson
Tel. #: 261-6658

WRITE A LETTER!

Only 200 Women at B.C. Rail

Recently the Province reported that while there were only 200 women employed at BC Railway, and only six at supervisory levels, the company has no plans to agg aggressively get women into these jobs, even though they have "no hang-ups" about it! As a public employer, we feel that BCR has an obligation to be an equal opportunity employer and be a model for the private sector. It is not enough not to discriminate against women. Until we have affirmative action plans for working women the gap between the pay of men and women will keep steadily increasing. Please write to Premier Bennett, head of BCR, asking him to implement an affirmative action plan, not only for BCR, but also for the provincial civil service as a whole. Send carbons to MR. Norris, VP of BCR at 1059 W. Pender St., Vancouver. B.C. Copies should also be sent to the leaders of all 3 opposition parties. (KR)

New Women's Ministry?

It is rumoured that Prime Minister Trudeau is considering a Cabinet shuffle in the fall. We should take this opportunity to urge him to make the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women a separate portfolio, and that the minister chosen should be a woman. The position is now the responsibility of Marc Lalonde, who is also responsible for Health and Welfare. Don't women deserve a minister all to themselves? If you agree, write to Mr. Trudeau and your own MP urging same. Address your letters to federal politicians at the House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario. Postage isn't necessary--just write O.H.M.S. where the stamp normally goes. It means "On Her Majesty's Service." (KR)

NEWS

EQUAL WORK IN OTTAWA

A report on the status of women in the civic labour force approved by the Ottawa City Council, calls for the establishment of an equal opportunity office in the city's personnel department. This entails a $100,000 new department under an independent director reporting directly to the mayor. It would enable a woman to appeal a refusal of promotion by the city. (KR)

NEWS

SUFFRAGETTE HOLIDAY

Why don't we pressure the federal government to designate a legal national holiday in honour of the date women were first allowed to vote federally? (KR)

CCEC Credit Union

Are you tired of dealing with banks, who use your money in ways you aren't told about? (investing in the car dealer who ripped you off last month, etc). Are you interested in an economic alternative that can work?

WHEN YOU SAVE AT CCEC

* Your savings are guaranteed without limit by the Provincial Credit Union Share and Deposit Guarantee Fund.
* Your money is used for low cost loans to start or expand co-ops and other community projects which will allow you to save money every day.
* You will be eligible for a loan at low cost when you need one.
* You can determine how your money is being used. Loan policy is set by the members, the people who save their money at CCEC.

YOU SAY YOU HAVE TROUBLE SAVING?

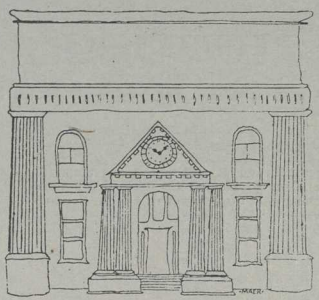
* CCEC will offer financial counselling to individuals and groups.
* There will also be an individual savings plan, to encourage saving on a regular basis.

HOW CAN CCEC OFFER LOW COST CREDIT?

* By not paying interest on deposits. Instead of receiving interest, CCEC members look forward to greater benefits.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

* A pool of funds being built up in your community, for use in your community, controlled by the members of your community.



"serving low-income men and women, co-operatives, self-help and community groups since February, 1976."

* Money will be available to you for a loan when you need it, at low cost, and without discrimination as to age, sex, marital status, or lifestyle. The only considerations will be ability and willingness to repay.
* Low cost financing for community organizations, cooperative ventures, and bulk purchasing programs will bring you an increasing range of goods and services at minimum cost.

AND HOW MUCH IS THAT IN DOLLARS?

On an average deposit of $500, you are passing up perhaps $35 per year in interest. Now, let's say a low-cost loan allows a food co-op to get off the ground, permitting you to save 15 per cent on your groceries (a modest estimate). If you normally spend $50 a month on groceries, your savings for the year will amount to $90. So on that alone, you're $55 ahead. And there are many other ways in which your dollars, co-operatively invested, can bring you savings on goods and services you need.

This kind of bank is of particular interest to women. One of the loan categories approved at the most recent general meeting (that is, purposes for which loans may be given) was Social Organizing and Women. Also it is our stated policy to give loans on a non-disriminating basis. The B.C. Federation of Women is one of the groups which are part of our Bond of Association. Since the Vancouver Status of Women is part of the B.C. Federation of Women, then every one of the members of VSW is eligible for membership in CCEC. It's a good place to learn how the money machine works (or doesn't work) around you.

We need your support. The Credit Union is at 125 East 8th Avenue, Vancouver and our new number is 876-0910. For information please call Katherine at 327-1341 or Ros at 261-5535.

WOMEN & RELIGION

WOMEN AND RELIGION NEWSLETTER

THE FLAME is the newsletter of the Coalition of Woman and Religion and can be ordered from them at 4759 15th Ave. NE, Seattle, Washington. The Coalition was formed about 3½ years ago when a group of women got together to share their concerns for the advancement of women's rights and their realization that institutionalized religion was more hindrance than help in developing the full personhood of women. Coming from Jewish, Unitarian, Protestant and Catholic traditions members discovered their common spirituality and sisterhood. They began to organize an action-reflection group, hoping to make changes in the world and survive struggle..

The Coalition has published several works dealing with women and religion. It republished The Women's Bible, a commentary by Elizabeth Cady Stanton first published in 1895 and 1897. Price is $6.95 + 50¢ postage. Companion to Stanton's book is the Study Guide to the Women's Bible written, edited and published by the Coalition in 1974. $3.50 + 25¢ postage. The Coalition also published the women's Peace Papers by 18 Seattle women who have long been a positive force for peace.

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CHRISTIAN FEMINIST BOOK

Christian Women in Victoria, B.C. are compiling a book on sex roles with biblical and scientific perspectives. Contributions are welcome. For more info contact Ms. Schwartzentnuter, 1069 Redfern Street, Victoria, B.C.

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CHRISTIAN FEMINISTS

DAUGHTERS OF SARAH is a bi-monthly publication of the Evangelical Women's Caucus who state "Christianity and feminism for us are inseparable". DAUGHTERS OF SARAH may be obtained for $2.50 per year from the Daughters 5104 North Christiana, Chicago, IL 60625.

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METHODIST WOMEN MONITOR TV

The results of the monitoring by 187 women who spent a total of 1400 hours viewing 741 episodes of 42 TV series from Nov.1975 through Jan. 1976, were due to be released in June, according to the Women's Division of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries which sponsored the project. Some of their findings include:"women are not portrayed as professionsl, well-trained and educated, competent persons." "More than half of the problems faced by all the characters were resolved by males." "Family, romantic, love and marital problems were faced by women in all of the situation comedies. Their male counterparts were primarily faced with career, justice, and helath problems."

For further information, the preliminary report, or for a copy of the final report of the United Methodist Women's Division Television Monitoring Project, contact Ellen Kirby, Executive Secretary of the Women's Division, Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, 475 Riverside Drive, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10027.

magazines

MAGAZINE FOR WOMEN IN MUSIC

Issue No. 6 of PAID MY DUES: JOURNAL OF WOMEN AND MUSIC, contains 60 pages of articles about women musicians and their music, several music festivals, concerts and conferences, 8 songs, record reviews, and letters.

For a copy send $1 (postage costs 35¢ so send more if possible) to PAID MY DUES c/o Women's Soul Publishing Inc PO Box 11646, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

MAGAZINE FOR OLDER WOMEN

PRIME TIME is a monthly feminist publication for older women. Articles cover a broad range of subjects, including health. Address is : 420 West 46th St. NY, NY 10036.

MOTORCYCLE WOMAN NEWSLETTER

MOTORCYCLE WOMAN is a newsletter for "for women who ride...or want to". It covers news on legislative changes, tours, races, maintenence, equipment, how to buy a bike, insurance, etc. Introductory subscription for $5 for a year of 8 issues from 333 East 49th St. Suite 8, New York, NY 10017.

FULL CIRCLE COFFEE HOUSE
FRIDAYS 8:30 - 1:00 am
THE NEW SCHOOL, 3070 COMMERCIAL
WOMEN ONLY

SURVEY RESULTS ON STATUS OF WOMEN

Marc Lalonde, Minister Responsible for Status of Women has released the results of a nation-wide survey on attitudes towards the status of women.

A 20 % shift in the attitudes of women and men towards women's equality occurred between December 1974 and December 1975, according to the findings of the survey. Survey results also indicated that 86% of the population were aware that 1975 was International Women's Year and 74% of the population recalled the "Why Not" advertising for the year.

The survey was designed to show current attitudes on women's roles and potential abilities and to measure any changes in attitude that occurred during 1975, International Women's Year. Attitudes on such topics as equal employment opportunity, child care, marital property division, custody of children and women working in the home were investigated.

In releasing the survey results, the Minister noted that this was the first comparative evaluation survey on attitudes conducted by the government and this fact indicated the high priority the government placed on status of women concerns.

PUBLICATION GRANTS

Twenty-six grants totally $25,000 have been awarded by Honourable Marc Lalonde, Minister of National Health and Welfare and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, in the final phase of the department's IWY program. The grants have been awarded to voluntary agencies to assist in the evaluation of IWY activities and to disseminate information regarding such projects and their achievements.

Organizations receiving grants are:

Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work Task Force on the Status of Women in Social Work Education - Vancouver, B.C. $800: to translate and publish the report of the CASSW Task Force based on the results of a survey of faculty structures and career patterns among all faculty in Schools of Social Work across Canada to determine the position of women in social work education.

Canadian Mental Health Association - Calgary, Alberta. $750: to produce and publish a 50 page handbook of tactical "how-to's" eg. how to organize co-op day care and health centres; ways of lobbying legislators; how to establish one's own credit rating; and how to have access to government documents and legislation.

Homemaker Department Calgary Family Service Bureau, Calgary, Alberta, $750: to produce five additional copies of a 20min. colour film on the role of visiting homemaker for national distribution.

Saskatchewan Association on Human Rights, Saskatoon, Sask. $500: to publish pamphlets on status of women issues to encourage larger numbers of Sask. women to participate in the developmental effort for change in the social, political and economic status of women.

The YWCA of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, Manitoba. $750: to publish information kits for girls and women in Manitoba (particularly those in rural areas) on how to obtain health and welfare services.

— more IWY —

Canadian Indian Nurses Committee, Winnipeg, Manitoba. $400: to reprint 1000 copies of their 34 page IWY Project Report consisting of material presented at and arising from "The First Assembly of Registered Nurses of Indian Ancestry."

Association of Women and the Law Ottawa, Ontario. $1750: to update, reprint and distribute several booklets on woman and the law which were researched and written by this Association. Topics include: "What's Ours is His: Marriage and Property Law", "The Law and Economics of Divorce", "The Common Law Wife:Myth or Mrs." and "Children: Custody, Care and Neglect, Illegitimacy, Adoption, Criminal and Civil Liability".

Canadian Psychological Association, Toronto, Ontario. $1500: to publish the Report and supporting papers of the Task Force on the Status of Women in Canadian Psychology. Topics include the education and training of women in psychology, the implications of psychological research for the understanding of women and the application of psychology in the counselling and treatment of women.

Guelph Women's Council, Guelph, Ontario $1000: to document events which took place in Guelph during IWY; to make the information readable and useable; and to help women know how much they have accomplished and what remains to be done.

Kingston Interval House, Kingston, Ontario. $1750: to produce and publish a comprehensive research report on battered wives based on the experience gained through the operation of Interval House in Kingston, supplemented by an examination and analysis of the available literature on the phenomenon including studies documenting domestic disturbances in the Kingston area.

Women's Resource Centre Association, Timmins, Ontario. $1000: to publish a 40 page bilingual booklet entitled "The Diverse Role of a Women's Resource Centre in a Smaller Community". The booklet wo;; provide information to local women and women's groups on community services.

Women's Workshop: Continuous Learning Projects, London, Ontario. $1500: to compile a manual for counsellors of women which will include information designed to facilitate their work. Much of the material will be drawn from the content of workshops presented in the London area over the past year, as part of an IWY project funded under this Program.

Association Canadienne pour la Sante mentale (in cooperation with YWCA (Quebec), Quebec, Quebec. $500: to publish a 20 page report documenting the operation of a bilingual women's centre using YWCA premises and trained mental health volunteers.

Centre "La Femme et le Film", Quebec, Quebec. $1000: to produce and distribute a videotape documenting their IWY project "Faisons Peau Neuve"; and to add a 15 page annex on health and welfare subjects to their present catalogue of available audio-visual documentation about and of interest to women.

L'Association des Families Monoparentales de l'Estrie Inc., Sherbrooke, Quebec. $1000: to produce and publish a report outlining the history and evaluating the activities and services of a drop-in centre for women in the Sherbrooke area who are single parents.

L'Association Feminine d'Education et d'Action Sociale, Montreal, Quebec. $1500: to print 3000 copies of a report on their research project on the role of women who work with their husbands in family businesses.

Les Voix Associees de Charlevoix-Ouest, Baie Saint Paul, Quebec. $500: to produce an information brochure describing for area residents helath and welfare services available to them from PRO-SANTE.

Organismes Familiaux Associes du Quebec Montreal, Quebec. $500: to reproduce 10 copies of a 9 minute slide show entitled "Femme et Mere aujourd'hui" and to publish a companion explanatory brochure.

S.O.S Grossesse, Quebec, Quebec. $1250: to produce a bilingual handbook describing the S.O.S. Grossesse pregnancy counselling service -- how it was set up, the nature of the service, its philosophy, its reliance upon and education of volunteers and an analysis of the impact it has had on the community.

Mouvement des Femmes Chretiennes, Edmundston, New Brunswick. $500: to produce an evaluation report documenting the impact on the community of the first "Salon de la Femme" held in Edmundston during International Women's Year.

Somerville Ladies, Hartland, New Brunswick. $300: to pro-uce a 15 page booklet describing a local head-start program for pre-school children organized by this local women's self-help group as their project for IWY.

Nova Scotia Native Women's Association Sydney, Nova Scotia. $1000: to publish a brief report documenting a Family Life Project centred on genetic concerns among the Micmac people of the province.

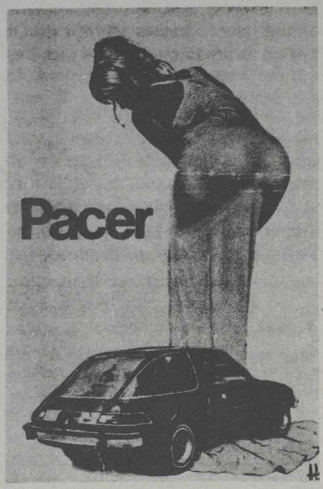
Wolfville Women's Centre, Wolfville, Nova Scotia. $1000: to produce and publish a report documenting the success of a number of "Well Women's Clinics" held throughout Nova Scotia during IWY. The clinics emphasized the need for early detection of cancer and other diseases.

Women's Resource Centre, Charlottetown Prince Edward Island. $1000: to publish several booklets on Women and the Law in Prince Edward Island and a Divorce Kit outlining procedures required to obtain a divorce.

Newfoundland Status of Women Council, St. John's, Newfoundland. $1500: to publish a 16 page booklet consisting of material presented at and arising from a "Women's Day of Health" held in St. John's last October.

Consumers Association of Canada (Whitehorse Branch), Whitehorse, Yukon. $1000: to produce a Nutrition Cookbook as follow-up to a three-day seminar on nutrition held in Whitehorse in March, 1976. In addition to an evaluation of the recent seminar, the cookbook will include recipes, a menu and shopping list for a family of four using nutritious foods available in the North and basic information on nutrition in question and answer form. There will be a dozen illustrations of northern foods.

media action



PROTESTEZ CONTRE CETTE PUBLICITE GROSSIERE

The Quebec Council on the Status of Women is asking women to protest against this gross advertisement for American Motors Corporation "Pacer", which appeared in a French language publication. VSW has sent off a letter doing just that. We hope you will also write to AMC. Contact President Bill Pickett and/or the Advertising Manager, at American Motors Canada Ltd 350 Kennedy Road South, Brampton, Ontario. (KR)

ADVERTISING

About Face: Towards a Positive Image of Women in Advertising, is available at the Ontario Status of Women Council, 801 Bay St. 3rd Floor, Toronto. It names the TV shows, the magazines and the products advertised that women find offensive, and tells what individuals can do about it.

Two forums for making your complaints about advertising known are: 1) Task Force on Advertising, c/o CAAB, 1240 Bay St. Suite 302, Toronto, M5R 2A7; and 2) (regarding misleading advertising) Complaints Officer, Misleading Advertising Division, Bureau of Competitive Policy, Department of CCA, Ottawa/Hull, K1A 0C9.

KEEP SENDING LETTERS!

Letting businesses know that you find their advertising offensive does have an effect! We have just learned that a business that received several letters protesting the sign outside the premises has removed the sign.

members' forum

LEISURELY LOAFER'S LEDGERS

Lately I have been able to visit places and events for my own pleasure because of my interest in them without the responsibility of having to account for a compact and comprehensive impression.

So, I wandered into the expanse of Habitat Forum on byways and highways, left by the beach or by boat, each time with the feeling that all this just came my way and that I did not cross any boundary at any time. The readily available connection with the downtown conference, the media and the non-stop reportting over Channel 10 at home enhanced the feeling of ubiquity.

In these beautiful natural surroundings of Habitat Forum the air vibrated with statements, concepts and plans about improving the human condition all over the globe; and the feeling of harmony almost promised to become permanent.

However, below this harmony, above the sounds of guitars, crowds and P.A. systems lingered the ubiquitous crying of infants. Their cries were typical of children who have been kept awake too long and were unable to fall asleep in the surrounding noise.

Following the sound, mothers with small children carried around in slings could be found, exhausted, pathetic and passive, trying to get a bottle out from the rucksacks on thei backs. When they finally offered it to the distraught baby it mostly refused to drink and chose to continue its vocal protests. There were always bottles on the Lost and Found counter.

Now I began to look for a place where parent and child could relax in comfort... A long padded counter, bins, bottle warmers, cribs, playpens were set up at several locations at Expo 67... A model resting unit serves those travelling with children at Dorval Airport. There were no such conveniences at Habitat except for the playroom of the World Council of Churches. The well-represented child-focussed organizations has only printed educational material but no facilities had been planned for the parent with a young child.

However it is the need which inspires solutions. It was heartening to see the signs and conveniences for the handicapped. Bicycle route signs also begin to make their welcome appearance along side the "Children Crossing" symbols.

Maybe the next addition to the international sign alphabet could be an infant's face peeking from the shoulder of a figure whose face does not show and whose silhouette could suggest either parent.

As it is our Vancouver Parks Board who will develop the Habitat Forum site, I would like to suggest that a model parent-child habitat be one of its features: as basic and lovely in style as the Forum had been.

Finding and financing an attendent where other conveniences are already available would ease matters for a relatively inexpensive addition of such habitats as malls, terminals, a exhibition sites or convention centres, for the comfort of parents with small children.

It has to be realized that neither father or mother, united or single, can afford to stay still in their own adult development and community participation in today's fast moving society if they aim to become the competent parents whom the next generation needs to orient them, as traditional models dissolve at an increasing speed.

- Mrs. E. Tunner, Vancouver.

subscribe!

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

_____

PHONE (home)_____ (work)_____

OCCUPATION_____

VSW MEMBERSHIP_____
(INCLUDES KINESIS SUBSCRIPTION)

KINESIS SUBSCRIPTION ONLY ($5/year)___

INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTION ($10/year)
_____

UNABLE TO CONTRIBUTE_____

RENEWAL_____ NEW MEMBER_____

RENEWAL_____ NEW SUBSCRIPTION___

VSW Membership is by donation and includes subscription to KINESIS. We would like to remind members that it costs approximately $5 to produce and send 12 issues of KINESIS and any donation above that amount to help with VSW activities is always appreciated.
Members unable to contribute financially will receive KINESIS on a complimentary basis.

KINESIS is published monthly be the Vancouver Status of Women. Its objective is provide an open channel of communication between the members of the organization, and to provide information for interested individuals, groups, and members of the government and media in order to promote understanding about the changing role of women in society.

Views expressed in Kinesis are those of the writer and unless specifically stated do not reflect the policy of V.S.W.

PUBLICATION DATE: The third week of each month.

COPY DEADLINE: The 1st of the previous month (e.g. Nov. 1 for Dec. issue).

SUBMISSIONS: KINESIS welcomes submissions from members and will consider those from non-members. All submissions, including letters to the editorial committee, must be accompanied by the writer's name and address. Pseudonyms will be used where requested. Where necessary, the newsletter committee will edit for brevity, clarity, and taste.

CORRESPONDENCE: Send to: KINESIS
Vancouver Status of Women
2029 West 4th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
Telephone: 736-3746

THIS ISSUE:

FRONT PAGE GRAPHIC: Kathy Horrocks
CONTRIBUTORS: Karen Richardson, Nancy D. Conrod, Johanna den Hertog, Joan Wallace, Mrs. E. Tunner, June Sturrock, Diana Bissell, P.P., Sharon Simpson, Barb Gedroff, Lorri Rudland, Leslie McDonald, Jo Lazenby

WORKERS: Leslie McDonald, Janice Summer, Sheila Mitchell, Jo Lazenby

EDITOR: Jo Lazenby

Letters

KINESIS:

I am very upset and disappointed at P.P.'s article on the Abbotsford Women's Festival. (July KINESIS).

Juliet Mitchell, in Women's Estate, points out that the women's movement is mainly taking place in urban centres. Rural women, because of such factors as isolation, transportation difficulties, lack of communication media, traditional farm roles, entrenched religious attitudes, etc., are mostly untouched by the women's movement.

Because of these problems, we in the Mission area have been very careful to make our approach educational, presenting films and speakers on women's law, birth control, menopause, etc. In this way we try to involve as many women as possible, not just those committed to the movement. We are purposefully "apolitical" and "middle of the road" (to quote P.P.'s criticisms).

We were very pleased to have a broad spectrum of women's groups represented, including the Mission Women's Institute ("women quilting") with whom we share space and facilities. If we are willing to communicate with other women's groups, to tell them our point of view and listen to theirs, how then is the message to spread?

Does P.P. suggest that radical/political women meet with other radical/political women only? To what end? In the Fraser Valley, that would be a small meeting indeed!

A few women spent a lot of time and energy, travelling great distances, to organize this first festival, and were pleased at the result. I hope next year's festival will be reported more favourably, with greater understanding of our problems instead of criticism of our shortcomings.

Sincerely,
Milly Toporowski, for Fronya Women's Centre, Mission.

KINESIS:

Please remind readers of the next issue that Channel 9 (PBS) is repeating "Shoulder to Shoulder" on Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 pm starting the 25th of July.

This is the story of the British suffragette movement, and especially of Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters Sylvia and Christabel. Rebecca West has said of these women: " their physical courage was amazing. They went to prison time and time again without the slightest hesitation if the movement called for it." There they endured not only squalid prison conditions but the torture of forced feeding when they were on hunger strikes. But they would not give up.

I found this series inspiring and a terrific consciousness raiser for my sons and myself. One of the most interesting aspects was seeing how the women became more radical and political over the years. While on might not agree with all their actions one could sympathize with them--and gasp at their courage and determination.

Angela Page

KINESIS:

I was dismayed to read, in the July issue of Kinesis, yet another collection of absurdities labeled "Facts About the Pill". It was reprinted from the Quesnel Women's Study Group newsletter, and is a typical example of mistakes and half-truths collected by some excited woman who has just read for the first time about the problems associated with oral contraceptives.

For instance: doctors DO know exactly how the Pill works. Via a negative feedback system, it suppresses the release of gonadtropin releasing factor from the hypothalamus, thus suppressing the release of follicle stimulating hormone and luteinizing hormone from the pituitary, thus suppressing the growth and release of an egg from the ovary. This no more more "interferes" with the function of the pituitary gland than does the natural feedback suppression effect of one's own estrogens and progestens. The multitude of Pill effects on the body chemistry, such as thyroid, liver and blood studies, are thought to be direct effects on the tissues involved and are not mediated through some sinister tinkering with your pituitary.

No woman on the Pill should be surprised to learn that there are risks. If she has been living under a rock for the last 15 years and has heard nothing about them, let us hope she does not accept drugs without any idea of the possible side effects.

Thromboembolism and blood vessel clotting are not synonymous. Thrombosis is not dangerous: embolism is. (That is, except for something like cerebral vein thrombosis, of which one single solitary case exists in literature).

The risk of stroke to pill takers is much, much less than "1 or 2 per cent per 10,000" which I presume means 100 to 200 women out of every ten thousand.

It is actually about 13 per million young women -- probably somewhat lower, since this figure also includes pulmonary embolism (lung clots) and lower still since low-dose pills came out: probably somewhat higher for women over 40. The risk of getting an annoying, but not dangerous, clot in a superficial leg vein is about 450 per 100,000 young women: not trivial, but not exactly terrifying. Your risk of getting some other annoying side effect is high, but trivial when compared to the annoyances that go along with abortions and pregnancies.

Women who remain frightened by a figure of 13 deaths per million users ought to realize that death from abortion is much, much commoner and death from pregnancy is hundreds of times commoner than deaths from Pills: yet do we frantically avoid pregnancy for that reason alone?

Nutritional needs do not "skyrocket" on the Pill. The need for certain vitamins increases somewhat, but can be met by all but the most inadequate diets. There has been no known case of an actual deficiency induced by the birth control pill.

Can't someone edit these garbled, ignorant accounts before they are printed as "fact"?

Yours,
Kirsten Emmott, M.D.
Victoria.

Letters cont'd

KINESIS:

I read with interest your article on Susan (June KINESIS, page 12, "View from the Inside") and it prompted me to get going to find a solution.

One of the main factors in Susan's plight was lack of child maintenance from their father.

Answer: Our government makes damn sure they collect income tax for necessities ie. school, roads, MP's salaries, etc. Why not deduct from a father's salary the amount owing for child support according to his wages, say a percentage (10 - 15%?). The government (like Family Allowance cheques) would remit the amount to the mother. This would eliminate mother going to Family Court. Also, if the father got a raise, etc. the children would receive more as they got older.

I do not think the majority would leave the country, in which case the mother would go on Welfare.

This solution would considerably reduce the welfare ranks and mothers would be happier knowing they're not accepting hand-outs, but what they are entitled to.

I am a single parent with 3 children but with a good job and some support. Without the but I would be in the same position.

Carole Gillies, Vancouver

KINESIS:
The question may well be asked whether the cause of feminism is menaced more by masculine opposition than by the ignorant hysteria and lurid rhetoric of some of its own evangelists.

Your July issue quoted these two sentences from Dr. Dorothy Smith, Associate Professor of Sociology at UBC:
"Women have been actively excluded from access to the means of 'mental production' and from claiming the authority to speak for themselves. Women who have attempted to make such claims have in the past been burned, guillotined, exiled, and incarcerated in mental institutions, and in the present they have been (and continue to be) ridiculed, reviled, and insulted."

I challenge Dr. Smith to name one single woman who was burnt or guillotined for claiming the right to speak for herself and who would have been spared such a fate if she had been a man tacing the same accusations. Joan of Arc was burnt at the stake: would she have escaped it if she had been a peasant-youth instead of a peasant-girl?

Women are faced with a choice: to regard the male sex as a body of malignant fiends with whom must be waged a perpetual truceless war, or to view men as fellow-beings who have often been their fellow victims in the past and may be such in the future unless more stress is laid on what unites than upon what divides. Is it so hard to decide what is the saner and more human choice?

Geoffrey B. Riddehough

correction

An unfortunate "regular feature" seems to have taken a foothold in KINESIS. Once again this month we have to proffer an apology/correction. On Page 2 of the July KINESIS we listed the members of the 1976-77 VSW Board of Directors -- except for the VSW Ombudswoman LEE MASTERS. Our apologies to Lee (and our thanks for the quite nice manner in which she brought our attention to this glaring omission).

FUNDING FOR WOMEN

Provincial Secretary Grace McCarthy has said that despite the closure of the Provincial Status of Women office under her department, women's groups could still apply to her for money.

By now, most of us should know whether or not we have funding from the Provincial Secretary. The Women's Rally for Action would like to collect information on who got money, how much and who got turned down.

We would like to print a list of groups and how they fared in the September issue of KINESIS so please fill in this form and mail as soon as possible (must arrive by August 15th to make KINESIS). We need as much detail as possible in order to lobby for implementation of Gene Errington's proposal for core funding for women's centres.

Please send us information on your funding situation as it relates to the office of the Provincial Secretary as soon as possible. Thanks for your help. Sisterhood is powerful.

Johanna den Hertog, Women's Rally for Action, % Vancouver Status of Women, 2029 West 4th St. Vancouver.

NAME OF GROUP:

TITLE OF PROJECT:

PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUESTED:

AMOUNT RECEIVED:

GRANT TURNED DOWN? WHY:

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO NOW?

NUMBER OF STAFF AFFECTED (LAID OFF, SALARY REDUCED, ETC.):

WHERE DID FUNDING COME FROM BEFORE?

DID IT COVER OPERATING EXPENSES? SALARIES? MATERIALS ONLY? OTHER:

COMMENTS:

august

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WOMAN ALIVE TV -- Wednesdays at 9:30 p.m. Cable 10 Vancouver.

See Page 18 for August programs.

ORIENTATION MEETINGS -- Thursday August 12 & Thursday August 26 at 7:30 at VSW office. Come and see what VSW is all about.

LESBIAN DROP-IN -- Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. at VSW office.

CR TASK FORCE -- August 11, 7:30 p.m. at VSW office. See page 9.

WOMAN ALIVE MEETING -- August 17, 1 p.m. at VSW office. See page 9.