

TAPESTRY

OKANAGAN and SHUSWAP WOMEN'S QUARTERLY



SHOPPING BAG LADY



OKANAGAN WOMEN'S COALITION



\$1.25

FALL '83

VOLUME 5

ISSUE 3

Stop the attack on Health, Education and Social Services

ATTACK ON HEALTH CARE A THREAT TO EVERYONE

We all face the possibility of requiring hospital treatment or other health care services. Budget cutbacks mean even more overcrowding. Cuts in home care services mean longer hospital stays with beds occupied by people who could be treated at home.

Increases in the daily charge for a hospital bed to \$8.50 will be a hardship for many. Increases in emergency charges to \$10 will also hurt. New daily fees for wheelchairs will be a heavy burden on some long-term care patients.

Worst of all, changes in medicare can mean different levels of medical service depending on your ability to pay. The new legislation also means that the Government can deny certain services recommended by your doctor and can demand access to your patient file.

All of these changes threaten the quality of health care available in British Columbia. Together these changes mean that your ability to pay will determine the kind of health care you get. That violates the principle of universal medicare.

CAN YOUR CHILDREN AFFORD A SECOND-RATE EDUCATION?

The Budget and the legislation the Social Credit Government is trying to pass mean that your children could end up with a second-rate education. Within three years, while enrolments are growing, School Boards will have to eliminate a total of 3,000 teaching positions, meaning larger classes and less chance to help students with particular problems.

Cuts in funding for universities, colleges and technical institutes means that young people will be prevented from getting the education or technical training they need to compete in today's world. To make it worse, cuts of \$10 million in student grants and loans mean that only children of the relatively wealthy will be able to obtain post-secondary education and training.

Taking decision-making powers away from local School Boards and centralizing all power in Victoria means that local needs will not be met. Many citizens concerned about quality education have been serving on Local School Boards and working to improve our education system. With these Boards made virtually powerless, this contribution will be lost.

Bill 3 would also make it possible for teachers, college instructors and university professors to be fired indiscriminately, with no regard to their skills or experience. How can we expect to have good teachers under these circumstances?

IMPORTANT SOCIAL SERVICES CUT OR WIPED OUT

With unemployment at record levels and families suffering greater stress than usual, many social services are more important than ever. The following are just some of the services which have been cut back or eliminated because of the Budget and the Government's legislation.

- Child Abuse Teams to help to protect thousands of children in B.C. More than 5,000 children last year were helped by the Family Support workers who are being wiped out.
- Homemaker Services, providing essential help to troubled families are cut drastically. Transition House in Vancouver, providing a refuge for battered wives and their children has had its funding eliminated and staff fired.
- Staff of group homes and treatment centres for children with special problems have been fired.
- The British Columbia Association for the Mentally Retarded which has helped many people to become useful, productive citizens has lost its funding.
- Planned Parenthood Association has lost its grant, increasing the likelihood of more teen-age pregnancies.
- Other services such as Post Partum Counselling and the Youth Worker Program have been eliminated.
- The Community Involvement Program which, at a cost to the Provincial Government of only \$750,000 provided an opportunity for 2,500 disabled British Columbians to develop useful skills and contribute to the community has been wiped out.

Together, these cuts in programs and elimination of programs will make life in British Columbia worse for thousands of people. In addition, the increased problems which will result will cost us much more in public funds in the long run. The Government is not only lacking in humanity, but is also lacking in common sense.

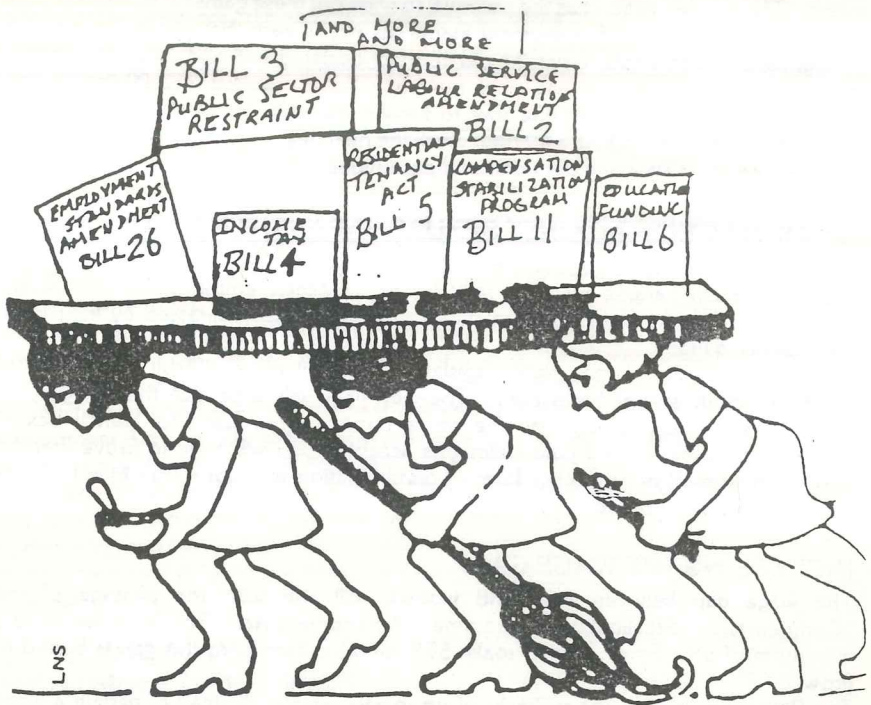
WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Write your M.L.A. and protest the Attack on Health, Education and Social Services in B.C.
- Support Solidarity Coalition activities in your community.
- Make your objections known to your local newspaper.
- Sign the Solidarity petition.

Speak Out!

SOLIDARITY
COALITION

GOVERNMENT ATTACKS ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS



1. No job security
2. No protection from sexual harrasment
3. No housing rights
4. Reductions in services to battered women and low income women
5. No protection from discrimination against lesbians
6. Attacks on the health and economic rights of seniors and disabled women
7. Increased discrimination against immigrant women
8. Increases in the wage gap between men and women

ATTACKS ON WORKING WOMEN'S RIGHTS

For years working women have been fighting for equal pay, paid maternity leave, and dignity. The new legislation has the potential to wipe out these gains.

The amendments to the "Employment Standards Act" means that employers can stall negotiations then apply to get the old contract declared null and void. This means that you could go from having paid maternity leave, earning \$12.00/hour, and working 35 hours per week one day to having no paid maternity leave, earning minimum wage, and working a 40 hour week the next day.

The government is attacking our rights and our unions.

NO PROTECTION AGAINST SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Both the "Public Sector Restraint Act" and the gutting of the "Human Rights Act" legitimize sexual harassment. The right for public sector employers to fire people without cause means that if women object to being sexually harassed by their boss, they risk being fired.

The changes to the Human rights legislation makes it more difficult for women to complain about sexual harassment. The new law will wipe out the category of "reasonable cause", which was the route most women used to launch sexual harassment claims. Now if your claim gets accepted you will have to prove that the sexual harassment or any other form of discrimination was done with intent. That's nearly impossible to prove.

INCREASING THE WAGE GAP

The wage gap between men and women will rise with the passage of the "Compensation Stabilization Programme Amendment Act". This limits wages to a maximum of 5%. Since women make 57% of what men earn this gap is bound to grow.

The Bill also calls for wage rollbacks of up to 7½ percent. Instead of getting a wage increase many workers will be looking at wage decreases.

The imposition of the 7% tax on meals means that waitresses will be doing more work for less money. Tips will fall at the same time as diners ask for separate bills to avoid the tax.

The government has closed the door to fair and equal pay for women.

NO PROTECTION FOR LESBIANS

It is now legal to discriminate on the grounds of sexual orientation. Women can be fired from jobs, denied services and housing on the suspicion of being lesbians. There is no recourse. The Human Rights Branch has been dissolved.

NO JOB SECURITY

Public sector workers such as clerical workers, nurses, teachers and social workers can be fired without cause and without remedy, as per Bill 3, the "Public Sector Restraint Act." The majority of these workers are women.

Women will be the hardest hit by these arbitrary firings and layoffs. For example, of the 1000 or so teachers that have already lost their jobs due to cutbacks, about 70% are women.

These actions mean that large numbers of women will remain permanently unemployed.

NO HOUSING RIGHTS

Rent controls have been abolished! The office of the Rentalsman will be abolished! The new "Residential Tenancy Act" allows landlords to evict tenants without cause. With no Rentalsman, the only recourse tenants have is through the courts — an expensive and lengthy procedure.

Subsidy cuts to low income renters mean a 20% rent increase to the poor, largely single mothers and the elderly.

No Rights! No Security! No Home!

IMMIGRANT WOMEN

Immigrant women will be severely affected by many different parts of the proposed changes. For example, under the "Human Rights Act", Bill 27, women can now be denied jobs because they don't speak English even if language has nothing to do with the job requirements. If they are discriminated against because of their race, they must prove that the employer *intended* to discriminate, a very hard thing to prove. Labour Standards laws are already poorly enforced in places where large numbers of immigrant women work. The cutbacks in the Labour Standards Branch staff and the introduction of user fees for some of the Branch's services ("Employment Standards Amendment Act", Bill 26) will result in even less enforcement, greater exploitation and fewer complaints from women workers.

All funding under the Ministry of Labour's Refugee Settlement Program has been cut. This program provided counselling, interpretation and information for immigrant women and men through community service agencies. The provincial government has made it clear that they do not think it is their responsibility to assist newcomers in this province.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES TO BATTERED WOMEN AND LOW INCOME WOMEN

Because of the cuts to legal aid, women will be unable to get legal protection from violence. Already one shelter for battered women (Fort Nelson Women's Emergency Shelter) has been told to close. Others are threatened. No more rent controls and the freezing of the budget for welfare payments put more of a financial burden on women wishing to leave an abusive relationship. Retraining programs are threatened and if cut, will make it more difficult for women to re-enter the work force.

HEALTH

The result of the medical services bill will be to severely decrease the quality and availability of medical care to all but the wealthy. The new bill will:

- require doctors who want to work under medicare to work where the government places them
- limit the number of doctors who can be in the medicare program
- establish a three tiered program where doctors can opt out of medicare, and it will be easier to extra bill.
- increase user fees for hospital care

THE MESSAGE OF THIS BUDGET IS CLEAR. THE GOVERNMENT IS TELLING US THAT OUR HARD-WON DEMOCRATIC, HUMAN AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS DON'T COUNT. WE DISAGREE! WE INTEND TO FIGHT BACK THROUGH EDUCATION AND ACTION. WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN KEEPING THE PRESSURE ON BY BRINGING THE INFORMATION IN THIS LEAFLET TO YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS, YOUR GROUP OR YOUR WORKPLACE. IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION OR WISH TO JOIN US, WE ARE:

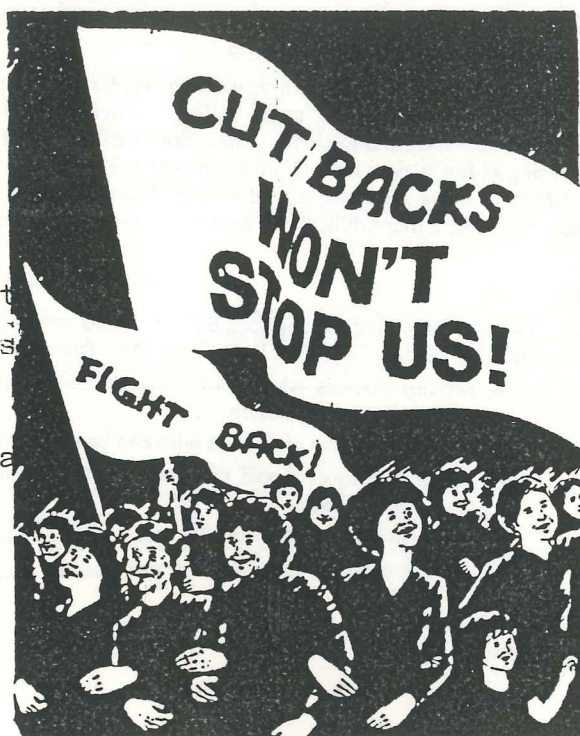
WOMEN AGAINST THE BUDGET

A coalition of women's groups and individuals. We also participate in the Lower Mainland Budget Coalition. All women are invited to come to our next meeting.

We meet every Thursday at: 7:30, First United Church 320 E. Hastings Vancouver/or Contant Status of Women, 873-1427/ or in the Interior Contact

Okanagan Women's Coalition. 542-7531 Vernon 762-2355 Kelowna

OKANAGAN
WOMEN'S
COALITION
NEEDS
VOLUNTEERS!!!



printed by press gang

-Nola Johnston

Coming Events

- October 2 War Series National Film Board-6 week series.
Sundays at 9pm CBC, Recommended.
- October 4 Women's Defense Against Violence - 8 week course,
Kelowna 765-2822
- October 5 Workshop "Sexual Harassment in Workplace" -
London Drugs, Kelowna. Sponsored by Kelowna OKWC
- October 10 Thanksgiving
- October 11 Pause for Peace 2 minutes silence at 11 am every
Tuesday of the month
- October 13 Jim Stark of Operation Dismantle in Ottawa -
7 - 8 pm. -- informal gathering; 8 pm address by
Jim Stark -- Anglican Church Hall, Salmon Arm, B.C.
- October 14 Women, Law, Economy Conference - by University of
to 16 Calgary - Banff, Alberta
- October 16 Maud Vant - Peace Educator - United Church, Vernon
at 7:30 pm. Public welcome.
- October 17 Maud Vant - OK College, Vernon at 12 noon
(tentative) Public welcome.
- October 18 Pause for Peace 2 minutes silence at 11 am.
- October 22 International Day of Protest - candle light vigil;
Film, Vernon, B.C. -- contact OKWC
- October 25 Pause for Peace 2 minutes silence at 11 am.
- October 28/29 Woman to Woman, Cariboo College, Kamloops, B.C.
Peer Counselling Skills Workshop
- October 31 Halloween
- November 1 Pause for Peace 2 minutes silence at 11 am.
- November 4 B.C. Federation of Women Convention, Naramata, B.C
to 6
- November 4/5 Death & Dying Workshop - sponsored by Vernon
Jubilee Hospital
- November 8 Pause for Peace 2 minutes silence at 11 am.
- November 11 Remembrance Day
- November 11 Canadian Research Institute for Advancement of
to 13 Women - Vancouver, B.C.
- November 15 Pause for Peace 2 minutes silence at 11 am.
- November 19 Suddenly I'm Single - OK College, Vernon, B.C.

Okanagan Women's Coalition Needs You To Volunteer !

November 22 Pause for Peace 2 minutes silence at 11 am.
 November 24/25 Sexual Abuse and the Family Conference, Kelowna
 November 25 Under the Gun - anti-nuclear play sponsored by
 Vernon World Disarmament Coalition, Friday 8 pm.
 Vernon Senior Secondary Auditorium. Tickets
 available at OKWC, Vernon.

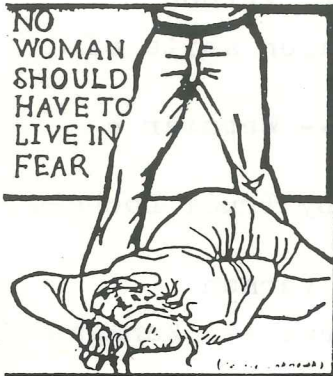
OKWC Fall Program includes:

Centre VGCC News *

"China" - slides and presentation by Maureen Karagianis

- * Films - "Not a Love Story" (on porno industry)
"Killing Us Softly"
"In The Nuclear Shadow" (and more)

- * Events - Tai Quan Do - Korean kick boxing -
 evenings or Wednesday or Friday afternoons.
 If women are interested please contact OKWC



Drop In to the Okanagan Women's Coalition and visit. Borrow a book from our Resource Library. Discuss what you would like to see happen. (i.e. Date, time, ideas) Volunteer.

For further information on any of these events phone:

O.K.W.C. Vernon: 545-6406/542-7531.

Hours: 9 am to 4 pm

Kelowna: 762-2355

Hours: 9 am to 1 pm

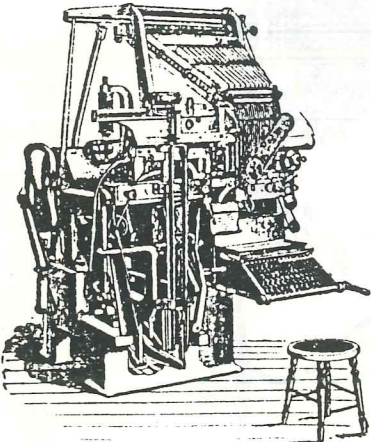
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR TAPESTRY IS NOVEMBER 7, 1983

OKWC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Cover Art Work done by Local Artist: Susan Roch

Women who worked on this issue:

Catherine Connell
 Jody McMurray
 Gwyneth Montgomery
 Shiralee Phillips
 Patricia Sebastian



5TH ANNUAL
OKANAGAN
WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

The 5th Annual Okanagan Women's Festival was held on August 27 and 28 at Squaw Valley Ranch east of Lumby, B.C. There were over one hundred women and children in attendance.

The Festival was a great success with excellent workshops, good organization, fantastic vegetarian meals and good weather. People camped out in their tents or slept in the huge barn. The atmosphere was very positive, warm and vibrating with the strength of the women and children.

Some of the workshops included:

- an Introduction to Feminism by Helen Douglas -- sociology instructor, Okanagan College, Vernon
- Wen Do -- self defense for women by Karen White of Nelson
- Briefing Through Feminist Literature -- Webster & Bailey Bookstore, Kelowna
- Stress Management & Lifestyle Skills by Trudi Locheed -- wholistic nurse
- Midwifery by "Choices in Childbirth", Vernon
- Okanagan Native History by Molly Bonneau -- Okanagan Native Women's League
- and more.

Throughout the weekend, childcare was provided by two qualified Day Care workers, Lori Scott and Sandra Pasutto of Kelowna. The children seemed to really enjoy themselves.

Items for sale included T-Shirts, buttons, jewellery, books and newsletters.

An interesting attraction was palm reading by the very talented Vicki Starfire of Victoria.

A fund raising auction was held Saturday evening and proved very popular. Items auctioned were donated and included:



- cruise/dinner for 2 on Fintry Queen
- Nude Sketch artist Susan Roch of Vernon
- case of honey donated by P. Connell
- belly dancing performance by K. Haire
- books, wine, cheesecake and much more



A dance followed the auction and was enjoyed by those still able to stay awake. It was a long day and we all slept well that night.

Our thanks and appreciation to everyone who helped to make the 5th Annual Women's Festival such a success. It was great to renew old friendships, make new ones and to celebrate together. Plans are now underway for next years Festival. We hope to see you there.

*Patricia Sebastian

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VOLUNTEER

AT

OKANAGAN WOMEN'S

COALITION

WE NEED

YOU

CONGRATULATIONS



TRACEY Sheridan plans to keep in shape after biking across the country with a group of senior citizens last summer. The 70-year-old also hopes to introduce other seniors to the benefits of vigorous exercise and good nutrition.

(Daily News Photo)

Tracey Sheridan

"You went a long way, baby!" Our congratulations to Tracey Sheridan of Vernon, a member of the B.C. Seniors Cross-Canada Cycle Tour Adventure 1983. Tracey's energy, enthusiasm and "get up and go" are an inspiration to all.

"It was exciting to have new experiences every day when you're 70. I feel so motivated. I look ahead at endless possibilities of things I have left to do."

She is compiling notes of her experience in hopes of selling them to magazines. Tracey is interested in working with a fitness and nutrition program for seniors. Let's hear it for Tracey Sheridan, folks!



WOMEN'S Transition House society member Carol Whitwell, with shovel, and Society President Joyce Hayden plant a May tree, Friday, to signal the opening of the Second Stage apart-

ment building for the Society. The eight units in the apartment building will be used by women in need.

(Daily News Photo)

Congratulations on the official opening of the Second Stage Apartment complex on Sept. 16. The Transition House and Second Stage Housing provide a vital service to women and children in need of shelter and counselling. The Transition House is a shelter for battered women and others who are in need of temporary shelter. Second Stage is an eight unit apartment block where women and their children can live up to one year.

OKWC Festival Planning Committee extend thanks to all for the hard work and dedication put into making the 5th Annual OKWC Festival in August such a great success. Great Teamwork!!

5TH ANNUAL
OKANAGAN

WOMEN'S FESTIVAL
 August 27 & 28, 1983

ONE WOMAN'S VIEW OF CHINA

by Maureen Karagianis

My first sight of China was about nine pm on a June evening, from the window of a 747. With the aid of a nearly full-moon and a sky full of stars and with my nose pressed to the glass, I watched the lights of thousands of villages multiply and merge into the lights of large cities, then recede again into singleness. We were travelling up the eastern coast from Shanghai to Peking according to our Pan-Am pilot, the most densely populated region of a country of one billion people--one-third of the world's population.

There were no darkened patches, as one sees over Canada when travelling by air at night. The steady stream of lights as far as the eye could see was preparing me for experiences to come, namely rubbing shoulders with unrelenting masses of people in one vast and giant living room where the concept of public and private merge into one. That sense of "public privacy" was to return again and again as I travelled through China, sometimes to delight me, sometimes to unsettle and even overwhelm me.

A young couple travelling down Chang'an Avenue in Peking, the man cycling and his bride (I imagined) perched on the new double bed boxspring tied to the bicycle's rear platform is a picture that returns again and again to make me chuckle. It's no wonder I saw them 3 or more times that day: such modern furniture is good reason to show off! Many Chinese still sleep on the more traditional hard wooden sleeping platform covered by a reed or cotton mat.

In my mind's eye I can still see a women's washroom in a Peking theatre where cubicle doors are left ajar, and where to squat and relieve oneself over the porcelain holes in the floor, in full view, passes unnoticed.

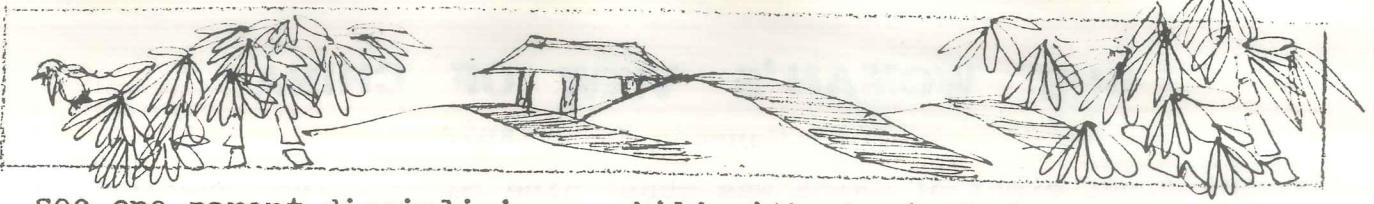
' FATHERS, RARELY MOTHERS, CARRY THEIR IMMACULATELY DRESSED SMALL CHILDREN IN PUBLIC.'

And, a housewife in Shanghai, gutting a fowl (chicken or duck) in a basin on the sidewalk while other families sit at tiny tables next to the busy curb, unconcernedly munching their evening meal and feeding the baby tidbits with chopsticks while the child is pleasantly distracted by the throngs of passers-by.

Vivid images such as these return again and again as I struggle to sort out my impressions of a land and its people encountered at such a hectic pace (7 cities in 3 weeks) that riding down a steep hill in a runaway rickshaw would have been a pleasant relief!

I found my attention constantly rivetted by the details of family and community life, and particularly the condition of women, with as many questions as answers surfacing.

Fathers, rarely mothers, carry their immaculately dressed small children in public. Is it because fathers are liberated or because there is status involved, particularly as the one child-one family policy makes children more and more special? Grandfathers too, often seem to be in charge of child care during the day. The relationships seem to be relaxed and caring. In fact, I did not



see one parent disciplining a child with physical force or a raised voice. Given the public nature of life this is remarkable. But grandpas surely get ill and crotchety in old age. How do they cope then with their young charges?

In the suburbs of Peking as dusk turned to night young men 'hung out' as they do anywhere, I guess, a few playing a checkers-like game under the street lights, squatting for hours and completely absorbed. Many more look bored and restless, occasionally bursting forth in disquieting song, a kind of tuneless plea to relieve the fretful condition of youth anywhere--nowhere to go and nothing to do. "Where were the young women? I wondered.

"APART FROM HER TITLE HER CONDITION IS VERY MUCH LIKE THE AVERAGE NORTH AMERICAN WOMAN WHO HAS A PROFESSION IN HEALTH CARE. HER SALARY IS TWO-THIRDS OF HER HUSBAND'S."

The women I did meet were remarkable for a variety of reasons. In Xian, Dr. Zhu greeted us at her modest factory owned apartment. She had just returned home from a night shift and was preparing the mid-day meal for herself and her family. She is a doctor, the closest to a "barefoot doctor" that I was to meet. In 1975 her nursing training was upgraded by an additional year giving her the status of doctor. (True barefoot doctors were less well-trained and tended to work in small rural communities.) Apart from her title her condition is very much like the average North American woman who has a profession in health care. Her salary is two-thirds of her husband's (who is a university trained physician and works at the same factory hospital) because she took time out to have 3 children, has experienced ill health and consequently lost opportunities for advancement. Dr. Zhu does all the cooking, cleaning and shopping for her husband and three adult children even though they all work the same six days per week. Dr. Zhu, pleasant and friendly in response to our questions, said the biggest health problems facing women who work in the textile factory that she is attached to is fatigue. She speaks from personal experience, I fear!

BUS PHONE: 542-1156

KALOTIRE

KAL TIRE LOCATIONS

THROUGHOUT BC AND THE YUKON

1460 KAL LAKE RD. VERNON, BC V1T 6N6

On the other hand, Mrs. Zhu (not related) a widow, appeared to be in the prime of life. Retired at the age of fifty-five from a bank in Shanghai, her job taken over by her son, she shares a relatively spacious apartment with her two children, one of whom is married and has a 12 year old child. Living on a comfortable pension Mrs. Zhu has travelled on senior citizen tours to Peking and Guilin, is actively involved in her community promoting birth control through Red Cross clinics and developing activity programs for other seniors. She enjoys Tai Chi, jogging and Qicong exercises which she was delighted to demonstrate. I was left wondering if the higher education of Dr. Zhu back in Xian had been a handicap when comparing the two women's lives. Indeed, as I was to discover, higher education of any kind was a handicap during the Cultural Revolution. China is just beginning to make up for injustices to her professionals who suffered a kind of reverse discrimination at the hands of government and the masses, in the form of low pay, poor housing and public ridicule.

“UNLIKE MANY CANADIAN WOMEN, HOWEVER, SHE FEELS THAT SHE IS NOT ALONE IN HER STRUGGLES.”

And lastly, our guide, Ma, or Siel Ma (the younger) at the age of 33 provided more insight and detail to fill in the blanks than could possibly have been expected. Initially reserved, as we were with her, Ma opened our eyes to Chinese women's lives as we shared bus seats and bunked down in train compartments--intimate quiet moments in an otherwise hectic routine.

In any other country Ma would be a part of an educated elite, selected as she was to study foreign languages at Peking University and then on to study overseas at Carlton University in Ottawa, before being assigned as an interpreter and guide for foreign visitors. Unlike her western counterparts, however, she lives in a two room apartment with her husband and son, shares kitchen and bathroom facilities with 3 other families and sees her 5 year old child on weekends or on her return from her 3 week tours around the country. She is loyal to and appreciates the policy of one child per family but sounded bitter when she told an older man that her generation must now pay for his generation's ignorance and laxness in family planning. She is intelligent and feisty, single-minded and dogged in her struggle for women's rights. Suffering sexual discrimination on the job has made her active at the local level of the Federation of Women (a government sponsored body much like the Status of Women Ministry in Canada). Her issues, not surprisingly, are professional advancement, housing and quality day care for preschoolers. Unlike many Canadian women, however, she feels that she is not alone in her struggles.



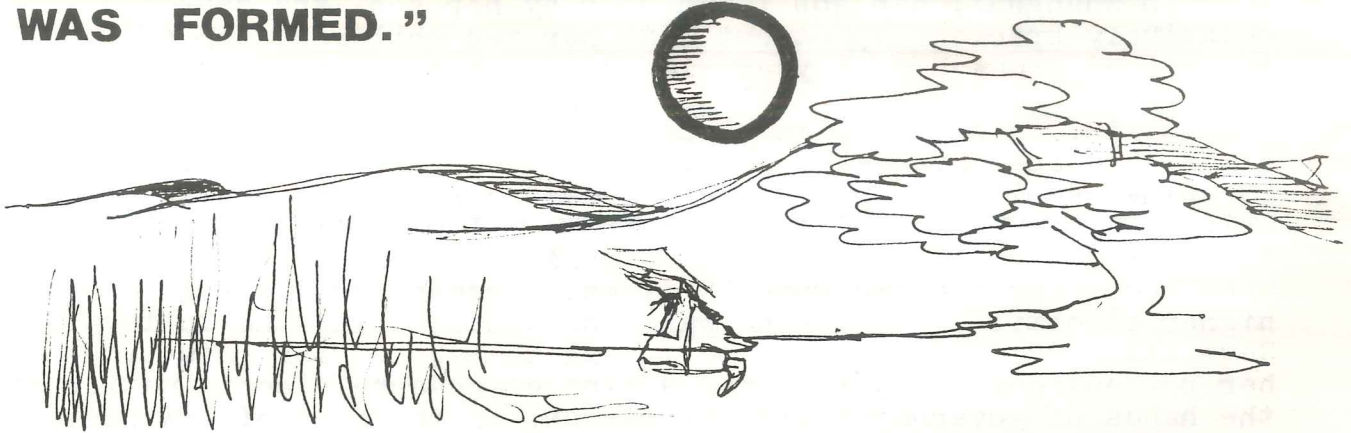
“Out of the Mouths of Babes.....”

First Boy “My Dad is a North American Indian.”

Second Boy “My Dad is from India. I guess that means we're both some kind of Indians.”

Graphic from: “The Sky Caribou”

**"RIDICULE IS UNHEARD OF BECAUSE
WOMEN'S RIGHTS WERE ENTRENCHED IN THE
CONSTITUTION WHEN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
WAS FORMED."**



Female co-workers, neighbors and friends support her. Ridicule is unheard of because women's rights were entrenched in the Constitution when the People's Republic was formed. (Tokenism from male colleagues and lack of understanding or appreciation of issues are as evident in Chinese institutions as in Canadian society, however.)

Ma's optimism, idealism and energy to make things better were enviable. But how does she reconcile her cramped personal living conditions with what she knows of Canadian life, or indeed, of what we saw in other women's homes that we visited in China? How can she accept the restriction of one child when she would clearly prefer more? And will she ever become disillusioned when the government flip flops, as it occasionally does, on issues that affect her life?

**"I'VE ALWAYS CONSIDERED MY PRIVACY A LUXURY,
BUT I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER IF IT ISN'T
OUR BIGGEST HANDICAP, IN THE WEST."**

I don't know where the term "jaded" comes from, but it would fit as an appropriate Chinese description of attitudes in the west! While we wait for signs of failure in the east, Ma and her generation move past tremendous obstacles with the confidence that life will get better for all, that personal sacrifice will create change, and that hard work and co-operation will improve the lot of everyone. And it is surely the over-crowding, the public nature of life that make such co-operative attitudes essential.

I've always considered my privacy a luxury, but I'm beginning to wonder if it isn't our biggest handicap, in the west.



Graphics for "One Woman's View of China" done by local artist,
Susan Roch

WELFARE RECIPIENTS

Vancouver Community Legal Assistance Society has won an important test case in the area of civil rights

Welfare recipients appealing the cut-off of benefits to a tribunal may have access to all files with information on that person.

The Gills are an immigrant family living in Vancouver and were suddenly cut off welfare. An appeal was launched and a request was made to see their file for appeal purposes. This was denied.

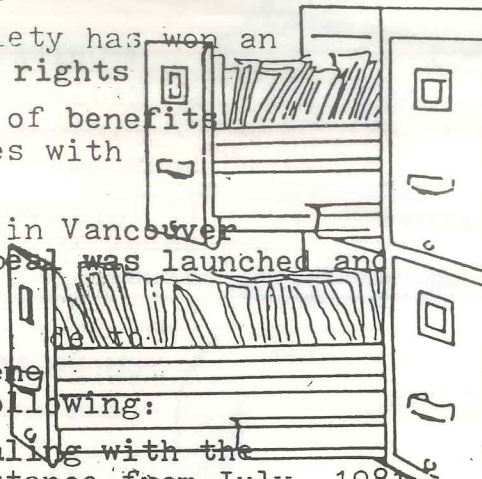
An application was made to the B.C. Supreme Court and Mr. Justice Legg ordered the following:

"The government produce all documents dealing with the Petitioners' eligibility for income assistance from July, 1981 to date including application forms, correspondence, notes of social workers or financial aid workers, comments of District Supervisor"

Mr. Justice Legg said the following:

1. A Supreme Court Judge could issue such an order.
2. The litigant or the tribunal could apply to the Court for the order.
3. The applicant had to show a good cause to see the file.
4. The order sought was a subpoena and not in the nature of mandamus. Mandamus can not be made against the Crown.

Counsel for the Attorney-General's Department says that the Ministry of Human Resources will take notice of the order and apply it to other appeal hearings.



THE OKANAGAN BRANCH OF

THE ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

#32 - 436 BERNARD AVENUE, KELOWNA, B.C. V1Y 6N7

TELEPHONE: 763-4613

E. Fry Society does not appear to be hurting due to cutbacks YET but the feeling is, who knows who or what is next?

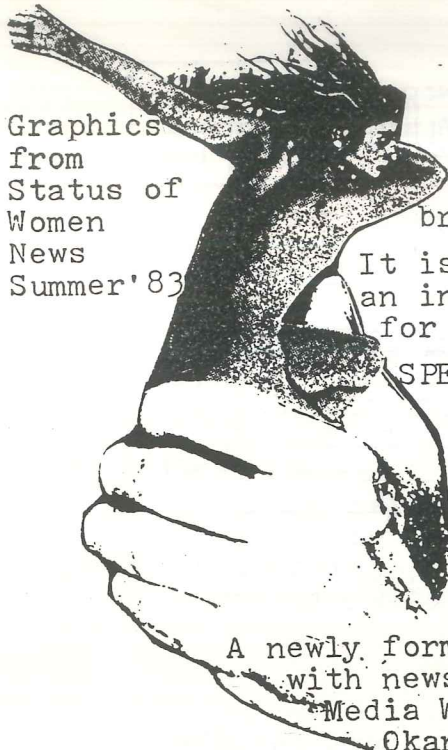
CENTRAL OKANAGAN EMERGENCY SHELTER SOCIETY-KELOWNA

Although Central Okanagan Emergency Shelter Society have been promised there will be no cutbacks, COESS is waiting.

Some women's transition houses have experienced cutbacks and a few have even been told they will have to close their doors, ie: no more funding. So far none have had to close but the situation is tenuous. The Transition House Society of B.C. and Yukon is working to form to protest the closing and cutback of houses all over B.C. and Yukon.

OKANAGAN WOMEN'S COALITION
NEEDS VOLUNTEERS !

Graphics
from
Status of
Women
News
Summer '83



PORTRAYAL OF WOMEN

Media Watch would like women to voice their opinions of television and radio stations broadcasting images of people.

It is important for women to give Media Watch an input to enable them to be an effective voice for us.

SPEAK UP WHEN YOU SEE, READ OR HEAR SOMETHING YOU DO NOT LIKE OR FIND OFFENSIVE.

"1984 will be a big year, as most of the radio stations' licenses are up for renewal, and Media Watch plans to have a lot of input!"
Information from: Women Today Port Coquitlam Area Women's Centre.

A newly formed British Columbia Press Council dealing with newspaper complaints procedure guidelines and Media Watch complaint forms are available at:
Okanagan Women's Coalition office #6 3000 30 Avenue Street, Box 1242 Vernon, B.C. V1T 6N6

Effects of the New Budget - LEGAL SERVICES KELOWNA.

In order to qualify for legal aid a single person must be making less than \$600.00 per month.

A person will not be given legal aid to obtain a divorce unless the situation is urgent ie: physical abuse or an urgent custody dispute.

Generally legal aid is not granted for impaired driving charges or in family court matters unless a specific lawyer feels that the situation merits help. In other words it is up to the discretion of the lawyer.

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financial planning.

PRO CHOICE QUOTATION

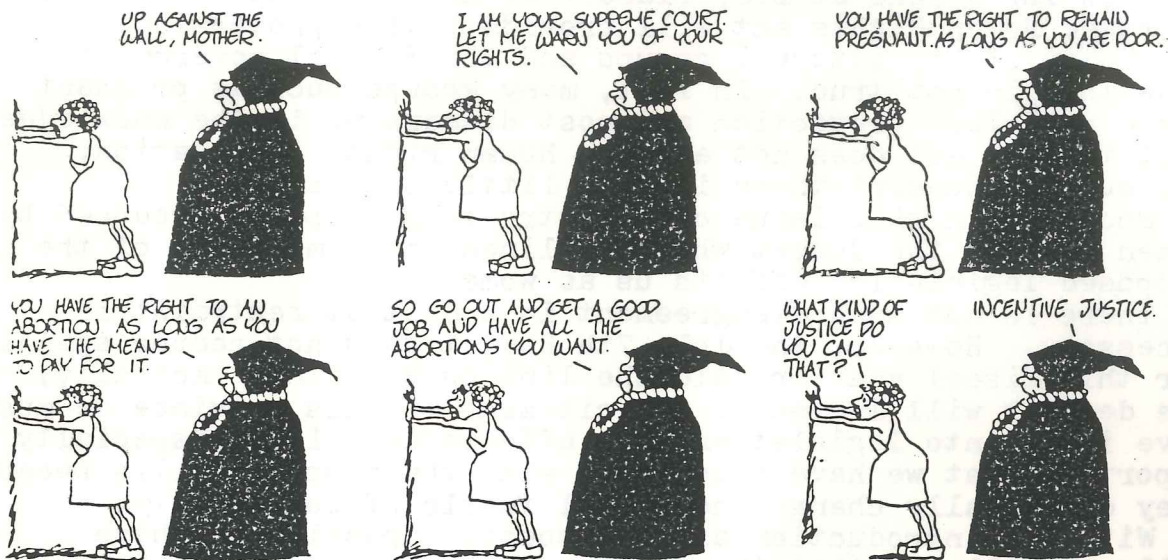
"Any pro-lifer who hasn't adopted at least one child more than he is financially or emotionally capable of caring for should keep his opinions to himself"

-Al Rosie, Detroit

Pro — CHOICE

The Salmon Arm ProChoice group recently had a successful booth at the Salmon Arm Fall Fair. A lot of people showed their support with 260 signatures on a petition to Nelson Reis who in turn showed his support by signing a letter to Mark MacGuigan. The Salmon Arm ProChoice group has resource people and information for any group to use for similar functions. They can be contacted at:

Joan Sturdy
Box 1121
Salmon Arm, B.C.
PH: 832-2920 (h) or 832-9846 (w)



In Vernon, the Hospital Society met September 14, 1983 to vote for its board. Fortunately for women, the 4 out of 9 nominees chosen are prochoice. They are: for 3 years, Joyce Hayden, Brian Harvey and Dirk Sigalet; for 2 years, Dr. Peter Knittle.

The Vernon contact is:
Choice
c/o Box 1242
Vernon, B.C.
V1T 6N6
PH: 542-7531

In Kelowna the address is:
Citizens for Choice
Box 1025
Station A
Kelowna, B.C.
V1Y 7P7

Philosophy: The abortion issue has become the conscience of conservatism. It is the only issue in which the New Right can claim the cloak of altruism. It sanctifies a movement which is in every other way anti alternative, anti minority, anti poor, anti woman, anti gay - and still yet calls itself 'prolife'.

Dierdre English in Mother Jones, Feb. 1981



SOCREDS
ATTACK
WOMEN



The 26 Bills proposed by the Social Credit government on July 7, 1983 set women back many years. Women and women's organizations have fought long and hard to have equality entrenched in the legislation laws, policies and services that have so much affect on our lives.

Services are being cut, programs are being dropped and the government is saying that they are having to do this to save money. Yet, at the same time they are spending 20 million dollars for a lake at B.C. Place. We are being told that the proposed Human Rights Act will provide better protection. Yet human rights interest groups and the federal government know this is not true. In fact, many groups such as pregnant women will lose protection and most discerning is the knowledge that the new Act does not enforce human rights legislation. Without enforcement there is very little protection.

Enclosed in this issue of Tapestry is a pamphlet produced by Women Against the Budget which outlines how some parts of the proposed legislation affects us as women.

There is not much disagreement in B.C. that restraint is necessary. However, the July 7th Budget does not reduce spending for this fiscal year or hold the line on spending. Actually, the deficit will increase. As citizens of this province we must have input into legislation that affects us. It is especially important that we have this input with the proposed bills because they drastically change the social fabric of our society.

With the introduction and the possible passing of these bills we will see that the value and respect for human beings and human services shifts so that capital goods and expenditures take much higher precedence. With this shift also comes the centralization of power.

It is extremely important that we voice our concerns now. These bills give the Premier and his minister much more power over our lives.

Women have been working to gain power in our lives. We must not let the advances we have gained be taken away. We must continue to work towards a society where values as cooperation, respect for individuals and equal participation in decision-making are stressed. We must SPEAK OUT!

The Okanagan Women's Coalition along with Operation Solidarity and Solidarity Coalition are organizing a provincial petition signing blitz on October 15th. Your volunteer energy is needed to bring in as many signatures as there are people who are opposed to the repressive legislation. cont.



Graphic from: "A Woman's Work is Never Done"

cont.

Solidarity Coalition is a non partisan organization comprised of community groups and organizations opposed to the brutal attack of the government against the social, economic and democratic fibre of this province. Solidarity Coalition is demanding the withdrawal of all government legislation which adversely affects the economic and human rights of British Columbians. Solidarity Coalition is working towards broad Public discussions in an effort to develop public policies for a social and economic recovery alternative designed to meet the real needs of people in the 1980's.

Local Solidarity Coalitions act independantly as well as supportive of common provincial actions.

Join now and Speak Out against this repressive legislation.

Town	Name	Phone	Address
Vernon	Okanagan Women's Coalition	545-6406 or 542-7531	Box 1242 -- V1T 6N6
Vernon	Murray Shaw	545-6912	2304-25 Ave.
Vernon	Agnes Chung	545-2658	3920-17 Ave.
(Vernon Solidarity Coalition will be meeting Nov. 2 at UNN Friendship Centre -- 7:30 pm)			
Penticton	Les Pye	493-3371	738 Fairway Ave.
Penticton	Dave Wilson	493-1912	198 Canyon Ct.
Penticton	Doug & Donna Pritchard	493-4294	
(Penticton Solidarity Coalition meets every Wednesday night. For more information contact above numbers)			
Kelowna	Central Okanagan Sol. Coalition	763-1797 or 763-2031	#2-540 Cawston Ave.
Kelowna	Judy Bourvonniere	860-1919	
Kelowna	Dave Matland	763-6405	
(Kelowna Solidarity Coalition meets Tuesdays & Thursdays - 9 am to 12 pm)			
Salmon Arm	Susan Latimer	832-333 or 832-4367	Box 3097
(Salmon Arm Solidarity Coalition meets every Wednesday at 7:30 pm Solidarity Coalition office beside Hudson Restaurant)			

Provincial -- Operation Solidarity, 3110 Boundary Rd., Burnaby, B.C. V5M 4A2

-- Solidarity Coalition, 6th Floor, 686 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1G1

OKANAGAN WOMEN'S COALITION

NEEDS VOLUNTEERS !

SHE WORKS HARD FOR HER MONEY



North Okanagan MLA, Don Campbell, appalled British Columbians on August 19. In the Legislature, Campbell supported the Ministry of Health's elimination of funding to the Vancouver Women's Health Collective because he erroneously believed the collective was providing a drop-in for lesbians.

Campbell's bigoted attitudes were supported by young "Christian" counter demonstrators at a picket organized by OKWC at Valley Fruit Stand in Vernon, of which Campbell is part owner of. Operation Solidarity, advocates for the disabled, teachers, health care professionals, OKWC and concerned citizens took part in the information picket to protest the July 7th budget and its drastic attack on social, democratic and human rights in BC.

Responding to Campbell's statement that taxpayers' monies should not go to groups that provide services to lesbians, a participant in the picket noted, "Lesbians DO pay taxes. Women DO pay taxes and we have a right to have our money channelled into services that we need." Approximately 10,000 women use the Health Collective's services each year.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

* Write letters of protest to:

Jim Neilson, Minister of Health
Don Campbell, North Okanagan MLA

- Demand reinstatement of funds to services, including those developed by feminists.
- The Health Collective Needs Funds To Keep Open. Regular monthly pledges are needed to meet the rent, phone & hydro bills, etc. One time donations are welcomed, too. TAX DEDUCTIBLE receipts will be issued.

They need about \$2000.00 a month just to keep open. 200 people giving \$10.00 a month would do it!

For monthly pledges, please send 12-post dated cheques to:
Vancouver Women's Health Collective
1501 West Broadway,
Vancouver, B.C.
V6J 1W6

NO DONATION IS TOO SMALL! THEY KNOW THEY CAN MAKE IT WITH YOUR HELP!

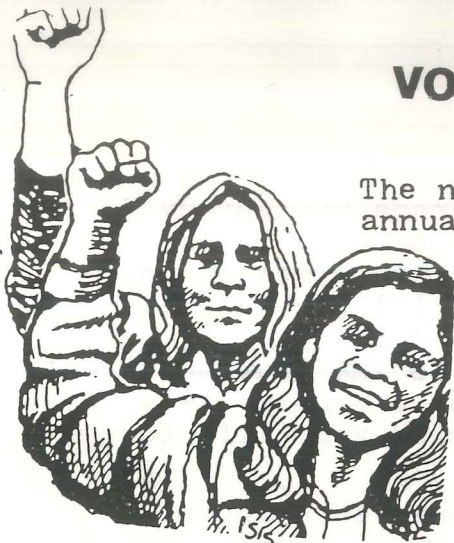


At Valley Fruit Stand 83 yr. old man signs petition against July 7 Budget.

- Support Solidarity Coalition activities in your community.
- Make your objections known to your local newspaper.
- Join the OKWC in actively fighting the July 7th repressive legislation and uniting towards a society where women's voices are heard.

* Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4

VOICE OF WOMEN



The national peace group, Voice of Women, held their annual general meeting in Vancouver on July 16 & 17. In addition there was a seminar entitled Our Children's Future: Directions for Peace. Over two hundred women and men participated, workshops, listened to speeches by disarmament activists, and watched films on the dangers of nuclear war. Jane Evans attended as a delegate from the Okanagan Women's Coalition and from the Armstrong Rural Alliance for Peace.

Workshops on strategies for action in Canada and internationally were loosely structured, enabling delegates to participate and ensuring a strong consensus on resolutions.

The keynote speaker was a young film-maker, Vivienne Verdun-Roe who showed her award winning work "In the Nuclear Shadow: What Can the Children Tell Us?" This very moving production presented the reactions of a group of school children to the threat of nuclear annihilation. The film is available for rent*

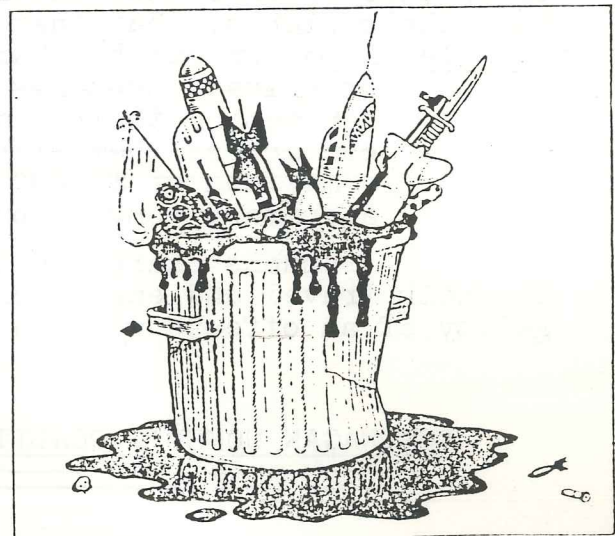
Many delegates spoke of their peace activities, their fears, and work being done all over the country to inform the public of the danger we are in. There was also advice on what course of action to take (letters, petitions, referenda, etc.) to inform the government of our concerns. Bonnie Klein from Studio D, the women's bureau of the National Film Board, spoke of the work she is completing, a history of women's involvement in the peace movement.

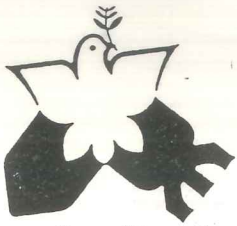
The Voice of Women has been working for disarmament since the early sixties. Activities of the past year include the preparation and presentation of petitions to government, letter writing campaigns, travel of delegates to Brussels, Berlin and other cities and the presence of two members at the United Nations Disarmament talks. In the future, delegates will keep us this work with the help of a growing membership dedicated to working for disarmament. If you would like to join write to: Voice of Women, 4872 Queensland Rd., Vancouver, B.C.

*Educational Film & Video Project
1725 B. Seabright Avenue
Santa Cruz, Calif. CA 95062

* John Moelaert
Chute Lake Rd.
Box 430
Kelowna, B.C.
V1Y 7P1

OKANAGAN WOMEN'S COALITION
NEEDS VOLUNTEERS !





B.C.
PEACE ACTION
CONFERENCE

Okanagan College, Kelowna, B.C.
September 24-25, 1983

Testing of the Cruise missile in Canada was approved by the Canadian government despite protest of so many Canadians. Petitions and other passive protests have little impact on politicians. Our planet described as "terminally ill" by Dr. Helen Caldicott. The issue is not communism versus democracy, or the U.S.S.R. versus the U.S.A. The common enemy is the growing threat of nuclear extinction. We are never more than 6 minutes away from nuclear annihilation. It is better to risk your life for peace than to waste it on war.

*Excerpts from speech by John Moelaert, Kelowna Peace Group.

Cruise missiles are not only nuclear but chemical and biological and can be programmed to kill specific groups (i.e. women, blacks). Poverty and oppression are the number one problem in the world. When the oppressed peoples (i.e. women, minority groups) can recognize their common problem and enemy, they can begin to work toward re-claiming their personal power and the hope of preventing a nuclear holocaust may become a reality. It is our right and responsibility to take back the power we have given away all our lives.

Men have a difficult time realizing they don't have the right to run the world. We must develop a society that is non hierarchial, non sexist and non military. We must develop an internationalist mentality.

Hancock proposed nation wide non violence training and massive civil disobedience at end of year in Cold Lake, Alberta. Rallies and petitions are important but we must be prepared for massive civil disobedience. Our moral conscience won't allow us to cooperate with evil.

*Excerpts from speech by Ken Hancock, peace activist with Cruise Missile Conversion Project in Toronto.

If an individual or group is contemplating an act of civil disobedience they should consult with a lawyer so they know their rights, what they may be charged with and the penalties. Example: A person can be charged with trespassing if they are on private property that is clearly marked. The owner can demand their name and address and a police officer can arrest them without a warrant. They can be fined a maximum of \$2,000 and/or 6 months in jail. This is a summary conviction.

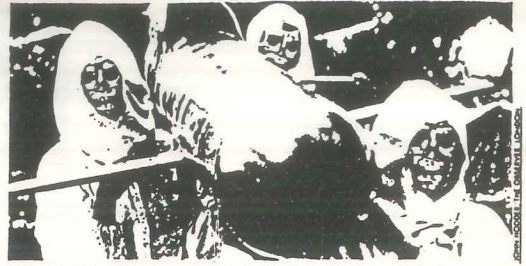
Persons charged with a criminal offense are restricted in their travel and employment. Immigrants charged and found guilty of an offense will be deported.

OKANAGAN WOMEN'S COALITION NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Rights if arrested:

- remain silent - give name/address only
- retain and instruct counsel
- know reasons for arrest/detention

Excerpts from speech by Marilyn Kanskey, Lawyer with West Coast Environmental Law Association.



Protesting against the cruise missile: no desire to be stars in the "theatre"

Maclean's Dec. 7/81

We must learn to be self reliant and develop tolerance and respect for one another. We do have influence and personal power. The largest masses of people want peace and freedom to live their own lives. If we act not out of greed, rage and power, but in spiritual unity with ourselves and others, we will be more successful. Keep a "half smile". Don't let despair take over.

Excerpt from speech by Rex Weyler, former Associate Publisher of New Age magazine; involved with Greenpeace Whale Actions.



South Vietnamese victims of U.S. napalm: a history of mutual distrust

Maclean's Dec. 7/81

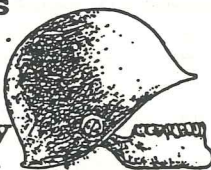
Some Conference proposals included:

1. Self and public education
2. Non violent actions
3. Declare our communities Nuclear Free Zones
4. Nominate Peace candidates for municipal elections
5. Multilevelled resistance to arms race and to whatever contributes to warfare
6. Organize with structures which will promote power of the individual and group cooperation.

*submitted by Patricia Sebastian

The money required to provide adequate food, water, education, health and housing for everyone in the world has been estimated at \$17 billion a year. It is a huge sum of money

...about as much as the world spends on arms every two weeks.



VICTIM CHALLENGE FOR DISARMAMENT
1001 PINE STREET
VICTORIA, B.C. V8W 2G1

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c/o #6 3000 - 30 St.

Ph. OKWC/545-6406 or

542-7531

Pause for PEACE

In response to the escalation of the arms race by the Canadian Government in allowing the testing of the Cruise Missile, B.C. organizers of the Pause for Peace have also escalated their campaign efforts.

The Pause for Peace, which has been observed in B.C. once a month since last June, now will take place once a week effective October 11.

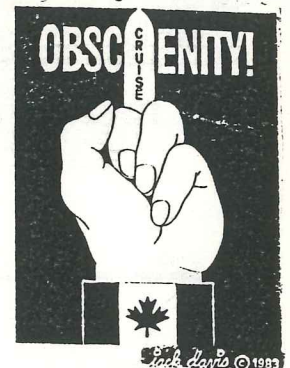
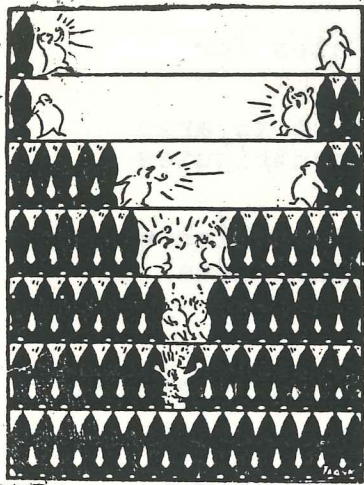
The two-minute duration of the Pause for Peace and the time of 11 am will remain the same. But instead of every second Tuesday of the month, the Pause for Peace will be observed every Tuesday of every week.

At present the Pause for Peace is observed by people in more than 30 communities in B.C. at work and in public places. The two principal objectives of the Pause for Peace campaign are: to increase public awareness of the consequences and growing risk of nuclear war and to persuade the Canadian government to pull out of the arms race and instead become a world leader in peace and disarmament initiatives.

PFP Coordinator John Moelaert explains: "Canada's involvement in the arms race will not make any difference on the outcome of a nuclear war. But Canada is in a unique political and geographic position to make a major difference as a peace broker in the world community of nations."

2 MINUTE SILENCE

11 am TUESDAYS



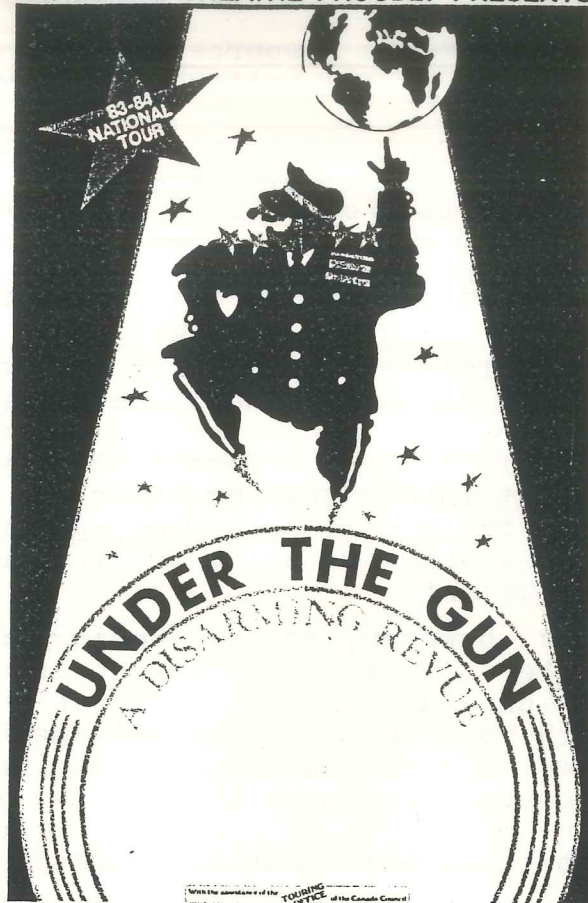
ATTN: Unemployment Insurance Clients

A Press Release issued on September 28, 1983 from the office of the Ombudsman in Victoria states: "Effective October 1st, the Ministry of Human Resources will grant full shelter benefits to clients awaiting Unemployment Insurance payments, without insisting on proof of hardship in the form of an eviction notice.

--B.C. Ombudsman, Karl Friedman

OKANAGAN WOMEN'S COALITION NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP OUT WITH
NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, FILING, TYPING, MUCH-MUCH MORE.

HEADLINES THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS



In Vernon on Friday, November 25, 1983.

at 8pm

(discussion afterwards)
Vernon Senior Secondary

Auditorium

2303 18th Street, Vernon.

Tickets now on sale at Sunseed (542-7892)

In Armstrong at The Good Time Salon (or 546-8222)

In Lumby call 547-6433 (Tickets at the door, as well.)

Price: seniors / students / handicapped \$3; others \$5.

Tickets available at Okanagan Women's Coalition 542-7531
#4 & 6 3000 30th. Street, Vernon, B.C. V1T 6N6 545-6406

+ + + + +
Kelowna Women's Resource Project
submitted by: **Carole MacConnell**

The Kelowna Women's Resource Centre has been struggling along since our opening in February 1983. Karen and I have wondered at times if it is worth it. For awhile it seemed that women were just not interested in a centre in Kelowna. There appeared to be a need--so, where were all these women? It has taken awhile but the interest and involvement has grown and continues. We now have a long list of potential and interested volunteers. There are several "regulars" who come into the centre; one very active volunteer, Tauri Magnusson and three others, Susan Webster, Donna Bailey, Jessi Sarmiento who worked extensively on the 5th Annual Women's Festival planning. Jessi, thank you for all the energy and time you put into gathering items for the auction. Chris Moores has kept the centre open when we have been away at meetings and Val Fortey designed our beautiful Festival logo. Many thanks to these women!

Our days are numbered, however, as our funding is due to run out at the end of September. We are in the process of applying for an eight week extension, but what then? There was a meeting held on September 7th at 7:30 pm in the Kelowna Resource Centre. Twelve women attended. We discussed numerous ideas for fund raising. Women generally felt that they wanted to keep a centre of some sort open in Kelowna to be a meeting ground for women from all socio-economic levels. Our next meeting is planned for Thursday, September 22, 1983.

UPDATE

The Thursday night meeting went well. About 10 women turned out and we have decided to start a weekly women's film night to be held at the centre, space permitting. Our first film night will be held Thursday, Sept. 29 at 7:30. 'On the March' (about the suffragettes) will be shown with a discussion following. We hope that these films will bring more women into the group and generate interest in the feminist movement.

We think the time is right for Kelowna women to work together on issues that concern us all!



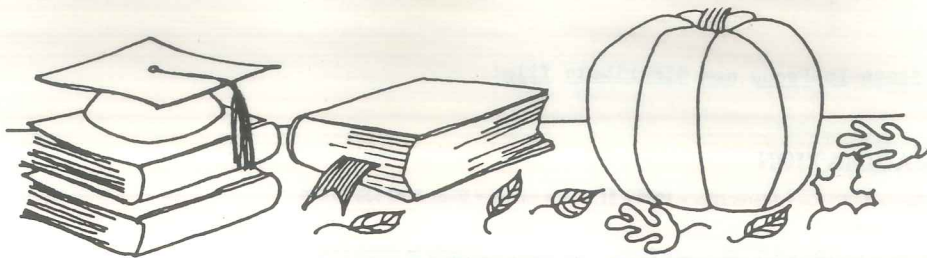
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#102 2900 30 Ave.

Phone: 542-7709

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Maternity Wear — Books — Baby Equipment



Many great books have been donated to the OKWC Resource Centre. You are welcome to come in and browse through. We also have a loaning service. Sit down in your easy chair and read.

Life As We Have Known It ed. by Margaret Llewelyn Davies. A first hand record of the lives, experiences and aspirations of working women. These recollections go back to the 1850's and extend through the early decades of the century.

The Suffragette Movement by Sylvia Pankhurst. This famous work is both history and autobiography. It chronicles how the women of Britain won the vote, and tells of personal experiences of imprisonment, hunger, thirst and sleep strikes and forcible feeding.

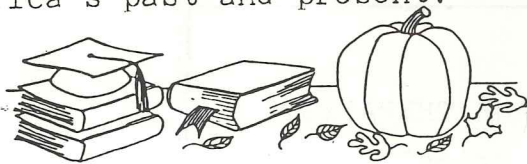
Red Emma Speaks: Selected Writings and Speeches By Emma Goldman compiled and ed. by Alix Kates Shulman. This collection of essays presents for the first time a comprehensive view of the theories and beliefs of "Red Emma" Goldman. Born in Russia in 1869, Emma Goldman fled to the United States at the age of seventeen and became interested in the anarchist philosophy as a solution to the economic and sexual exploitation she saw around her. The essays and speeches included give evidence of the sophistication of her analysis, the breadth of her interests, and the depth of her concern for her time and for all time.

Daughters of the Earth: The Lives and Legends of the American Indian Women by Carolyn Niethammer. She was both guardian of the hearth and, on occasion, ruler and warrior, leading men into battle, managing the affairs of her people, sporting war paint as well as necklaces and earrings. She was our native sister, the American Indian Woman, and it is of her life and lore that Carolyn Niethammer writes in this rich tapestry of America's past and present.

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- Taken from Women Today
Port Coquitlam.



Women In Focus now distribute film!

IT'S NOT YOUR IMAGINATION

by W.A.V.A.W. (Van.) and Women In Focus • 16mm film • 1980 • 21 min. • colour • Rental: A) \$30 B) \$45
• Purchase: \$425

Sexual harassment of women in the workforce can take many forms, from sexual innuendo to actions that threaten our economic survival to sexual assault. What is often regarded as common flirtation or 'natural' behaviour can in fact be a way of reinforcing male power over women.

THRILLER

by Sally Potter • 16mm film • 1979 • 35 min. • b/w • Rental: A) \$45 B) \$60 • Purchase: \$575

Analysing the position of women as romanticised victims in fiction. A crystallization of the function of romantic fiction in subtly producing and reproducing the ideas that sustain class and sexual stereotyping — all in the guise of 'universal human experience'.

DONNA

by Yvonne Scholten • 16mm film • 1980 • 65 min. • colour • Rental: A) \$60 B) \$74 • Purchase: \$800

Donna tells the story of the relationship between politics and women's lives in Italy. The film specifically documents the following issues: women and Fascism, and the rebellion against Fascism; women in left-wing parties; the social gap between feminists and women of the farmers' and workers' movements in the early 1900's; and feminism today.

While the film was in production, a right-wing group destroyed the women's radio station in Rome and shot five women. Their account of the attack and it's relationship to their work became the starting point of the film.

SIZE 10

by Susan Lambert and Sarah Gibson • 16mm film • 1978 • 18 min. • colour • Rental: A) \$30 B) \$40 • Purchase: \$450.

Nearly every woman rejects or doesn't like some part of her body, yet a woman's acceptance of her body is crucial to her identity. This film takes the view that a woman's body cannot be seen apart from her personality and how she acts in the world. Size 10 shows us how women's body image has been formed and deformed by advertising and sexism. The film raises discussion about body image, sexuality, society's conditioning of what women should look like, the fashion industry's profits from our insecurities, pressures on women to conform, adolescence and how we as women can feel better about our bodies.



Type A — rental fee for Community Organizations
Type B — rental fee for Institutions

For further information or a complete catalogue of videotapes and films CONTACT:

WOMEN IN FOCUS,
ARTS AND MEDIA CENTER
#204 - 456 West Broadway
Vancouver, B.C. Canada, V5Y 1R3 (604) 872-2250

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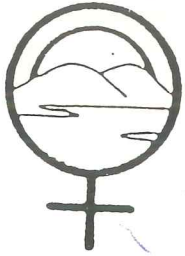
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VERNON, BC
V1T 6N6



Okanagan
Women's Coalition

P.O. Box 1242
Vernon, B.C.
V1T 6N8

542-7531
&
545-6406

P.O. Box 1137 Sta.A. 762-2355
Kelowna, B.C. 9am-1pm.
V1Y 7A8

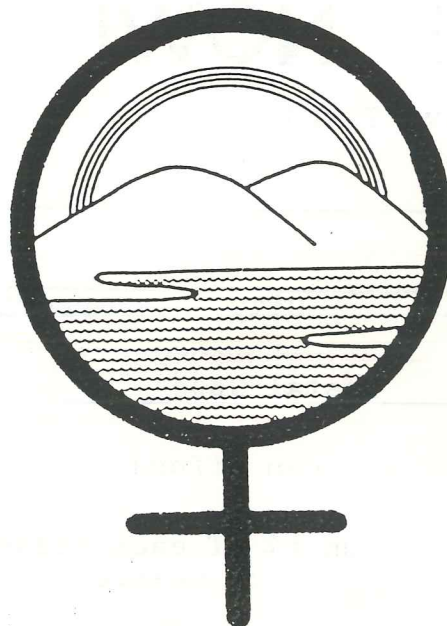
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OKANAGAN WOMEN'S COALITION

Improving the Status of Women

- * workshops
- * networking
- * outreach
- * lobbying
- * support
- * advocacy
- * resource
- * information
- * seminars
- * symposiums
- * festival
- * education
- * support



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