WEST KOOTENAY

WOMENS

ASSOCIATION

VOL. 4 NUM. 3

APR /99

What constitutes violence against women? Any act that results in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women. Most easily recognizable are physical or sexual assaults. Violence also includes emotional abuse, (such as threats, intimidation, humiliation, depriving someone of their freedom), verbal abuse, (such as name-calling, yelling, put downs, threats), sexual harassment - unwanted physical contact or comments, and economic abuse (such as controlling someone's money or preventing a person from getting a job or education).

Write to advertisers and tell them why you're boycotting violence as entertainment. Talk about the harm caused by discrimination and negative portrayals of women and relationships on TV and film. Encourage shared responsibility for preventing violence against women.

<u>Violence Prevention Week: April 18 - 24</u>

Violence affects the whole community. The estimated cost of violence against women in B.C. is \$385 million per year. Living violence-free means changing attitudes, behaviors and beliefs that allow violence to continue at the individual, community and societal level.

What can you do?

The first step is to learn more about it. In 1997 in B.C. 9,800 spousal assault incidents were reported. (Many go unreported.) 81% of the accused were male, 10% female, and 9% accused both. One in 8 Canadian women has experienced a sexual assault since age 16 and over 25% of women 18-34 have reported being sexually attacked by a date/boyfriend. Women are most at risk when they are with a man they know. In 87% of reported cases women knew their assailant and in 46% of reports the woman was assaulted by her spouse.

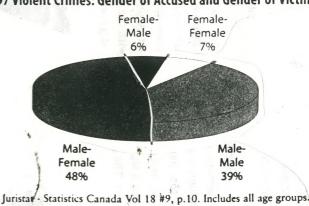
Creating change as an individual involves bringing the subject of violence into the open; at work, with friends, family, and at recreational and social events. Talking about violence, learning about root causes and challenging behaviors and attitudes that use violence or the threat of it breaks the silence and educates us all. We can learn mutually satisfying ways to resolve conflict, accept change and respect each other's differences.

When we take a stand every time we see or hear violence in speech and actions we raise awareness of what violence actually is and that change is possible.

Violence Prevention week is April 18th - 24th, a time to focus on causes and cures. Watch for various events or call the Violence Prevention Pipeline at 1-888-606-5483 toll free. We can help change happen.

How Much Crime Is Committed By Women And By Men?

1997 Violent Crimes: Gender of Accused and Gender of Victim



Co-ordinating Collective Personnel Report

Currently the Women's Centre is experiencing some structural changes in our funding. Our major funders are the Ministry of Women's Equality (MWE) which funds direct service and Status of Women Canada (SWC) which funds systemic change. Historically each government agency has funded women centre operations so we were able to use funding from both agencies to employ a part time coordinator at the Women's Centre. This allowed us to employ 2 Women Centre Coordinators.

MWE continues to fund women centre operations so we are able to employ a part time coordinator with MWE funds. In recent years, however, SWC has been moving away from funding the core operations of women's centres (program funding) to funding specific, time-limited projects run by women's centres (project funding). Therefore, we can no longer rely on SWC to fund a centre coordinator. We can only apply for SWC for funding for specific projects. This year we applied for, and received, funding for a 2 vear employment equity (EE) Project.

Given the nature of our funding, the Coordinating Collective decided that it makes sense to have a Centre Coordinator and a EE Project Coordinator.

The Women Centre Coordinator position will be filled by Karen Newmoon. Unfortunately, at this time WKWA has no funding to employ Jill Stewart after

April 30, 1999. The CC has asked Jill, who was initially hired on a 3 month contract, to stay an additional month and Jill has accepted our offer. In the meantime, a hiring committee made up of Krista James (CC rep), Karen Newmoon (staff rep) and Meg Herweier of Kootenav Women in Trades and Technologies (community rep) have interviewed a number interesting women for the EE position and will be making a hiring recommendation to the CC at the next meeting.

The CC has received a lot of positive feedback from membership and the community about Jill. She is doing a great job and we are really sad to see her leave her job. The CC is committed to the idea that it is important to have 2 centre coordinators. We would like to explore further options for funding another coordinator. Please contact the Personnel Committee at WKWA if you have skills, ideas or experience and would like to volunteer to assist with this fundraising effort.

Government addresses to write about Women's Centre funding: Hedy Fry, MP Sec. Of State for Status of Women, Suite 106, 1030 Denman, Van. BC V6G 2MG. Minister of Finance or Prime Minister of Canada, House of Commons, Ottawa Ont. And no stomp needed for last two.

The WKWA Personnel Committee is:

Krista James is the CC member on the Committee. She has been working with feminist boards for ten years. She works as a legal advocate at the Advocacy Centre.

Sally MacKenzie is carpenter currently employed by Kootenay Women in Trades and Technologies (WITT). She is a long time member of WKWA and a former staff and CC member.

Barbara Goertzen has worked at and managed Career Development Services for the past 12 years. She is particularly interested in employment equity for women. She has worked with WKWA before through her involvement with the Building Bridges Program for Women.







5000 CAMPAIGN: for NAC-CCA's independence

As you know, NAC (the National Action Committee on the Status of Women) was without funding for much of last year. Things were dismal and we had to temporarily lay off staff. Finally we received funding from Status of Women Canada for a research project to study the impact of government policies on women's groups and on the advancement of women's equality in Canada. This is great news because this work ties in with Beijing+5 and the Global Women's March 2000. We still need to raise money to staff and maintain our office, for political work and NAC's independence. On International Women's Day across Canada we launched the 5000 campaign. Our goal is to identify 5000 women and men who will donate \$100 each. This will go towards core funding and a sustainability fund to protect NAC's independence. Please speak with NAC reps, make a donation or volunteer to make some phone calls. Let's go into the new millenium with flags flying high! Hannah Hadikein 352-3609 NAC Rep. NAC Van. Office (604) 736-3346

#219-1675 West 8th Ave. Van. V6J 1V2

E-mail nac bc@bc.sympatico.ca

book review



Enjoy! Heather McSwan ¥

As I write this, the snow is receding, robins have been seen and new bird songs are heard on sunny days. When this report appears, these should be a regular occurrence.!

For this month's newsletter I read Naomi Wolf's PROMISCUITIES: THE SECRET STRUGGLE FOR WOMANHOOD. An excellent book; it is a series of discussions among women, complemented by the author's observations and experiences. Although Naomi Wolf speaks from her experience as a middle class, white, North American woman, her study has a wider scope. She addresses the very basic, most intimate of changes - that from girl to woman, and explores what that can mean for any or all of us. The discussion includes the "virgin/whore" stereotype and ideas beyond that, what it means to stay in the place of being a woman, and revealing looks at history. The books' loosely knit style opens our minds to a range of thoughts and possibilities.

She says, of her exploration of female desire: "....despite the centuries' severe constraints on female desire, the history of women's sexuality did not submit to a straight line of oppressions. Joy, nature and love have constantly subverted it." YES! An excellent, uplifting book.

If you're looking for a local video filled with inspiring women and their views, try the **C4 Conference '98 video** at the Centre. Jane Burton put it together for our own WKWA, and it's 21 minutes of great stuff. Both content and format are well organized; I enjoyed the reminder of what it was like; GREAT!



6th Annual Kootenay Moving Pictures Film Festival

Among the many wonderful films here are a few of special interest to women:

Vancouver director Nettie Wild's documentary "A Place Called Chiapas", filmed in the area a short while before the massacre of 45 villagers; the film crew then leaving due to death threats from government paramilitary forces. See it Sat. Apr. 24th at noon. Phone 352-9699 for workshop location.

"My Heart is My Witness", a haunting documentary about the lives of women in Islam, showing Sun. April 25th, 4 pm at the Civic Theatre in Nelson.

Quebec director Manon Briand won the Best Director, Best First Feature, and People's Choice Award for "Two Seconds" at the Montreal Wold Film Festival. 2 seconds change the life of a professional bike racer and direct her down another path.

Pick up a complete schedule at Oliver's Books in Nelson, Pete's TV in Castlegar, Jennie's Gardens in Winlaw, Gold Rush Books in Rossland, and Mystic Convenience in Kalso.





Operational funding provided by the Ministry of Women's Equality, Province of BC

I AM A SPY

I am a spy for the other side. My life is a lie, you may deride; I've cheated, I've shape-shifted reformed form organs cut and sifted mutated and worn. Now I look like you Now I can move with the pace I'm a spy it's true within my thin face. I hear you say She's fat. You don't want to play with a girl like that. She wears her pain outside, Everyone knows that girl ain't got no pride.

My fat friend came running up to me.

I want to look like you she said hysterically.

My heart its broken I feel torn I have spoken

I feel worn.

Except you don't know

There is no difference between me, big or small except I can now dance And I can now crawl

I am a spy , for the other side.



Wendy Chivers February 1999

MINI- CLASSIFIEDS

SEASONAL STAFF WANTED: Park Assistant (PA1) and Park Ranger (PA2&3), BC Parks, Kootenay District Office, PO Box 118. Wasa BC V0B 2K0 (6188 Wasa Lake Park Drive). BC Parks is committed to employment equity. Call (250) 422-4200 and ask for a Self-Declaration Form and submit with resume and indicate position desired by April 30, 1999.

HOUSEMATE WANTED, working, non-smoking, quiet, no pets, Granite Road, \$300/month, call 352-9517.

Wanted: woman to live in wonderful house in womyn's land (MAA) in Blewett. \$200/month rent. Radio phone, no electricity, walk-in access in winter. Jo Hetherington 354-1501

WANTED: A rural place to live, water/view if possible for woman & cat for May 1. References available. 354-4754.

Also wanted, sewing machine, dresser, wooden kitchen table and chairs.

WANTED: Good home for Gayla, short-haired calico cat, allergies, 226-7269, Terry.

HOUSE-SITTING SITUATION WANTED by woman (homesick for the Kootenays) and two children. Good references. Prefer one week or so, allergic to cats. 354-4754

WANTED

A woman to update our website and keep it current. Nelson Women's Centre 352-9916.

NEED A JOB? The Youth Employment Resource Centre at the Nelson & District Youth Centre is open for people between 15 and 29 years of age. Located at 608 Lake Street or call 352-5656.

For rent: Room in bright, large. heritage house available for rent. 352-1588.

NORTH VANCOUVER AIR from Nelson to Vancouver 1-800-228-6608

MISCELLANEOUS.

Y 2 K Citizen's Action Guide, published by Utne Reader. Available at Olivers or online at www.utne.com/v2k Highly recommended.

RED CROSS at Lakeside Physio. (by Orange Bridge), 354-4456, Loans out crutches, commodes, walkers, raised toilet seats, for 3 months, with extension to 6 months, by donation. Run by volunteers.

LEGAL AID Office: 812 Vernon St. Phone 352-3147 (collect calls accepted). Application hours, Tu, W, Th, 9 - 11 am or 1-3 pm and Drop-in. They will take phone-in applications. If you want legal advice, phone ahead to make sure everyone's not in court or away.

Watch for Rita Moir's book launch of Buffalo Jump: A Woman's Travels (Coteau Books) at the Nelson Public Library, Fri. May 14th, 7:30 More reading dates in May newsletter.

LESBIAN POLITICAL **DISCUSSION GROUP**

SUNDAY April 18, 2 pm at the Nelson & District Women's Centre 352-9916

LIVING MENOPAUSE CREATIVELY Sat. May 15&/or 4 Tues. eve.'s May 25-June 15, Kutenai Art Therapy Institute, Kathryn Morgan 354-4747

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An English professor wrote a sentence on the board and asked the class to punctuate it: woman without her man is nothing. The boys wrote: Woman, without her man, is nothing. The girls wrote: Woman! Without her, man is nothing.

CIRCLE OF HABONBIA **LENDING SOCIETY** Workshop: Money: Empowering Ourselves. Info: Laverne 226-7071 or Ariah 226-7163 or Jill 352-9916.

ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING at the Nelson and District Women's Centre starts in May. Phone 352-9916 for info or to register.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY '99 Thanks to all who

participated in the celebration of women on March 6th at the 'Waterfall Hall': workshop leaders, prize donators, tabledisplay women, performers, clean-up and set-up crews. cooks, participants, kiosk decorators, canvassers, and singers on Baker St. It took all of us to make the day wonderful, and it was great!

THANK-YOU ALL!



Our LOGO CONTEST continues!

Spiff up our existing WKWA LOGO

or create a new design. Fax, mail or bring to the Nelson & District Women's Centre 420 Mill St., Nelson, BC V1L 4R9

Fax 352-7100 We're waiting for your design ideas



Where is Women's History?



"OUR NELL"

The best known of the Valiant Five is undoubtedly Nellie McClung, who came to represent the Canadian woman's movement. She was born Nellie Mooney, October 23, 1873, on a farm in Chatsworth, Ontario. The whole family had to pitch in to do the work and she retained that practical sense. They moved to a homestead in Manitoba when Nellie was 6. She became a schoolteacher in Manitoba where she married Wes McClung, son of the Methodist minister, and worked with her mother-in-law in the temperance Movement, Mrs. McClung, Sr., recognized Nellie's talent, and looked after the children so that Nellie could write novels and go to conferences. Nellie published 16 books and numerous articles. In Winnipeg, she became involved in the founding of the Political Equality League, in 1912, with other astute women to deal with Sir

Redmond Roblin, who did not believe women had rights. He called Nellie "a hyena in petticoats!". Newspapers pictured her as "Calamity Nell"! But wit was her trademark and she responded to hecklers with laughter and repartees. She wrote a popular play, "The Mock Parliament" that had women deciding if men should vote, which played to a packed theatre. Under new Premier Norris, Manitoba became the first province to pass a Bill for women's vote, January 27, 1916. The cheering and desk-thumping is said to have been deafening! The McClungs moved to Edmonton that year, where Nellie was elected member of the Liberal legislature. She was the first women to sit on the Board of Governors of the CBC IN 1937, and Canadian delegate to the League of Nations in 1938.

Elaine Dupuis **Q**

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Why We Oppose Votes For Men

→ one

Because a man's place is in the army.

- two

Because no really manly man wants to settle any question otherwise than by fighting about it.

- three

Because if men should adopt peaceable methods women will no longer look up to them.

→ four

Because men will lose their charm if they step out of their natural sphere and interest themselves in other matters than feats of arms, uniforms and drums.

- five

Because men are too emotional to vote. Their conduct at baseball games and political conventions shows this, while their innate tendency to appeal to force renders them particularly unfit for the task of government.

- Alice Duer Miller, 1913





events

- Kootenay Gallery, Castlegar (across from the airport)
 April 23. 'VECHNAIA PAMYAR' (which means
 HONOURING OUR DOUKHOBOR HERITAGE). The
 show opens with 20 artists celebrating 100 years since
 the Doukhobor's arrived in Canada.
 - And in the same Gallery, our local artists share in the **B'Est of the Century**, a Kootenay Invitational Exhibition, featuring the biggest, silliest, fancy-est, etc., of their category. This wonderful show ends April 11, and then on April 17, Vicki Gabereau will auction off the items at 7 pm. A fun event and one more opportunity to appreciate our unique community's immense talent.
- LESBIAN DROP-IN, May 7th Dessert Night! Come alone or with a dessert. Women's Centre, 420 Mill St., 7 pm, info 352-9916
- WOMEN IN MID-LIFE community meeting, Wednesday, April 28, 7 to 9 pm, Nelson Public Library. An opportunity to share with other women about health and to provide direction for this project. Can't attend? Phone/fax your input (250) 354-1140 or e-mail cscoh@netidea.com
- Menopause Video from BC Women's Hospital, Wednesday, April 7, 7 to 9 pm, call 354-1140 to reserve a seat. No charge.
- **CAPITOL THEATRE**

Box Office:Tues to Fri 10 - 4:30 352-6363

Costume Shop 354-1510

SYMPHONIE OF THE KOOTENAYS, Overture Concerts presentation featuring Beethoven's 4th Piano Concerto, Sat, April 17 at 8 pm.

CHARLOTTE DIAMOND, Capitol Theatre Children's

Presentation, Sat., April 24 at 3 pm.

WATERWALKER FILM FEST, Rivers & Oceans

Presentation, Friday, April 30, time TBA.

"FUN IN JUST ONE LIFETIME" Heritage Harmond Barbershop Chorus and Guests, Saturday, May 1 at 2:30 and 7:30 pm

CAN'T SAY NO! A Capital fundraising evening featuring great Kootenay Artists! Friday, May 7 at 8 pm

•MASSAGE DROP-IN Wed. May 5 4-5 pm, (head shoulders, and neck) with Christine Sutherland, massage therapist. Free! Come & get rubbed right!



- 25TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S FESTIVAL will take place on August 6, 7 & 8, 1999. We need your ideas for workshops and your help to make it happen. Planning meetings at Women's Centre Mondays at 5 pm. Call to check times, 352-9916. All women are welcome.
- PARENTING AFTER SEPARATION Classes in Nelson, Trail and Castlegar. Nelson: Thursday, April 8 from 9:30 to 12:30 and Wednesday, May 19 from 6:30 tp 9:30 pm, 352-5777, Grand Forks too: 365-2104/ Sessions goals: to reduce stress on parents and assist them to move forward in their lives. Parents registered in separate
 groups.
- MAMMOGRAPHY VAN at KLRH April 23 to 30, Rossland April 14 and 15, Phone 1-800-663-9203.
- NELSON GAY AND LESBIAN GALA! Saturday, May 15, 7:30 to midnight, semi-formal dress, live music by "Galene", hor d'oeuves, cash bar, Advanced tickets sales \$20 per person 505-5098.
- Advocacy Centre in Nelson provides services to victims of wife assault, sexual assault, adult/child sexual abuse, criminal harassment and stalking. We can provide assistance with filling out forms, information about your case, referral to other services, an opportunity to speak in a safe environment, resource information, in-person or telephone support, courtroom orientation/accompaniment, assistance through legal process and liaison with crown counsel, police and lawyers. If you are a victim of violence and need help, please call us at 352-5777.
- CARMEN RODIGRUEZ, Public Reading, Nelson Library, author of "And a Body to Remember With", April 9, at 7:30 pm, \$2 to \$5 donation.

 Workshop Painting Yourself into the Picture, Saturday, April 10, \$40. Register 352-7035
- NACBC Spring Conference 99 Friday to Sunday, April 30 to May 2. Co-hosted by Van. Status of Women and WAVAW, #309 -877 E. Hastings St., Vanc., BC Register by Apr. 23, 4 pm, fax or mail. Phone / fax (604) 736-3346, National Action Committee on the Status of Women, #219 1675 West 8th Ave., Vancouver, BC V6J 1V2

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notes

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY?

Counseling support to help YOU make decisions. Confidential, accurate information on pregnancy options. Referrals to supportive health service nearest to you. Call FREE 1-888-875-3163. A service of BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre.

Look for the NELSON RECREATION COMMISSION

- LEISURE GUIDE for courses and activities of interest to women in Nelson, coming out in April.
- ANTI-VIOLENCE WEEK April 18 to 24. Watch for videos on Shaw Cable and events advertised there, eg. Jan Inglis's interview. Display at Nelson Trading Company. Victim Services Info Line 1-800-563-0808.

Creating Economic Wellbeing in Alberta: **Developing New**

- **Poverty** Solutions to Symposium May 6 to 8. To build on capacity of non-profit and community organizations to initiate address projects that socioeconomic needs. Community Works, #524 - 918 16th Ave. NW, Calgary AB T2M 0K3. Fax (403)230-8258, Phone (403)703-5 3 6 2, e-mail communityworks@home.com
- STOP SMOKING GROUP Sign up at the Nelson Women's Centre. When we get enough people, we'll start the group! 352-9916
- Other groups, Video Club meeting, Harassment, and How to Deal with It, Education About Homophobia, Assertiveness Training, Women's Self-Defence, and more. Give us your ideas.

• OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Meetings at Kootenay Lake Hospital, 4th Floor, Mondays 7:15, Fridays, Noon (brown bag), Saturday Sunrise 7 am. Info.: Christine 352-7755

- Meet fabulous women and help get exciting projects of the ground. WKWA needs your help! We need volunteers to brainstorm ideas, staff tables, input data, and co-ordinate volunteers. If you have interest, ideas or abilities call 352-9916.
- If you have graphics you'd like to see in this newsletter or if you can draw some Kootenay women for us, call Jill at 352-9916.

If you are the victim of a crime, going to the police can be very scary. You do not have to go through it alone. When you call the police ask them to call their

- VICTIM SERVICES Worker (Edith Doyle). She can be with you the whole time and explain everything that is happening. Even if you're just thinking about reporting a crime call 354-1393 and she will tell you what it will be like so YOU can choose what you'd like to do. (This message is reprinted from the Nelson teens book, Girls on the Town, available at the Women's Centre Library)
- The Women's Centre is open Tuesday to Friday, noon to 4 pm, and 10 am to 4 on Thursday. Just 4 blocks above Baker at 420 Mill St.
- ALL WOMEN WELCOME. Come have a cup of tea and browse the library. 352-9916.
- Sisters in Sobriety meet at 5 pm on Tuesdays at 717A Vernon St. 354-4754 for info. on AA for women.



- RECOGNIZING OUR STRENGTHS: a support group for women who are or have been experiencing abuse, violence or harassment. Proposed start date is Thurs. April 8, 6:45 pm to 9 pm. Call 352-9916 or 342-3504 to register.
- ► KATHLEEN SHANNON FILM FESTIVAL, we need more people interested in watching this wonderful project grow. Phone the Women's Centre at 352-9916 to sign up .Rent her videos here too.

WORKSHOP PROPOSAL:

- Theme: Healing after Loss of a Long-term Relationship. If you'd like to attend phone 352-9916 to put your name on the list at the Women's Centre.
- TO PROTEST THE BOMBING IN YUGOSLAVIA, call Jim Gouk, MP, at 1-800-667-2393.
- NICOTINE ANONYMOUS, 601
 Front Street, R.. Bsmt. entrance,
 Thursdays at 7:30, 352-5397.
- NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, 24hour helpline, 1-800-342-7439.
- WRITING OURSELVES WHOLE, Support Group for abused women, 354-3504, Candace Holt.
- Adult Children of Alcoholics, 1/2 Nelson, 352-3683.
- FACTS OF LIFE LINE, Sexual Information, Confidential, 1-800-739-7367

Information & Referral

We provide recommendations and referrals to women who need information on community agencies and activities, health, legal and personal concerns. Whether you are considering leaving an abusive relationship, applying for GAIN benefits, or looking for a doctor, we can help you figure out what to do. Our coordinators and volunteers offer support,







MISSION STATEMENT

The Nelson & District Women's Centre is a safe space where all women can come together to provide and receive support, information, resources and referrals.



HOURS:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday Noon to 4pm Thursday 10am to 4pm



RESOURCE

FILES

2

MANY WOMEN'S ISSUES EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

GROUP

D

TRULY WONDERFUL

LIBRAR

if you're the Women's Centre is a place

420 Mill Street Nelson, B.C. • V1L 4R9 (604) 352-9916



Fax: (250) 352-7100 e-mail: wkwomyn@netidea.com

THIS IS YOUR OFFICIAL INVITATION TO JOIN THE West Kootenay Women's Association

Your \$30 (\$15 student or low income) gets you a newsletter (10 times a year), library borrowing privileges, and the chance to "associate" with some of the finest women in the Kootenays! If you can't afford the dues, send us back this form with a contribution or do a work trade (four hours - call the Centre to arrange something). Please make out cheques to the WKWA - 420 Mill Street · Nelson, B.C. V1L 4R9

Name: Address: Postal Code: _ _ Telephone: _

All memberships are due at the Annual General Meeting and are valid until the next AGM.

Objectives of the Association

- 1. to promote, lobby and advocate for the rights of all women to have social, economic, and physical control of their person regardless of race, class, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, age, size, spiritual or political beliefs;
- 2. to supply and render service of a charitable and educational nature to women;
- 3. to establish resources for women;
- 4. to co-operate with other organizations which have objectives similar to the objectives of the Association.

KOOTENAY THE WEBSITE FOR KOOTENAY WOMEN WHO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN!

SPEAK"

TO COMMUNITY RE WOMEN'S ISSUES, PARTICULARLY VIOLENCE AND POVER