

THE B.C.

# VOICE

Vol. 21, No. 1  
February, 1987

THE B.C. VOW NEWSLETTER, published four times a year by B.C. VOICE OF WOMEN  
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ISSN 0045-3080

## C A L E N D A R   O F   E V E N T S

- FEB -MAR VANCOUVER The Chilean ARPILLERAS on DISPLAY now, and until mid-Mar.,  
AT THE WOMEN IN FOCUS Arts & Media Centre, 456 W. Broadway,  
ph. 872-2250.  
(NB See also page 3, "ARPILLERAS". -Ed.)
- FEB 27 VICTORIA PUBLIC RALLY TO STOP URANIUM MINING, at Legislative Bldgs.  
at 11 a.m. Spons. by Greater Victoria Disarmament Group.  
Contact: Miriam Thorne, 1164 St. Patricks St., Victoria,  
V8S 4Y4 Ph. 598-5787
- FEB 27 -28 VICTORIA THE SEARCH FOR JUSTICE IN CENTRAL AMERICA: a big 2-day VOW  
event with speakers Dr. Joel Kovel (author of "Against the  
State of Nuclear Terror"), Sofia Montenegro (Nicaragua Wo-  
men's Assn.) and a host of illustrious "Voices" such as  
Terry Padgham and Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford. Panels, work-  
shops and displays. Info: phone Terry at 595-7519.
- MAR 13, 14, 15 VANCOUVER B.C. VOW ANNUAL GEN. MEETING, "Women Building Networks For  
Peace", at Vancouver Hospital Residence. SEE PAGE TWO \*\*\*\*\*
- APR 10 -11 NELSON OUR NUCLEAR BACKYARD: A Conference About Hanford. Spons.  
by Kootenay Centre for a Sustainable Future. Headlined by  
Dr. Rosalie Bertell; other speakers include Rev. W. Houff  
(Hanford Educn. Action League, Spokane), Dr. Fred Knelman  
(educator) & Bill Lawless (waste management expert). Info:  
Bill Metcalfe, 809 Baker St., Nelson, BC, V1L 4J8. (354-3967)

> A.G.M. MAR. 13-15. Be SURE to read PAGE 2

PLEASE DON'T TURN THE PAGE  
UNTIL YOU'VE READ THIS! ←

MEMBERSHIP DUES - Please take note of the month/year on  
your address label (p.10). That is the date your  
membership expires. We know you want to continue  
supporting BCVOW, so let's see you at the AGM (page 2)-----→  
and if you can't make it, please send in your mem-  
bership fees to Marian Shipley (address p.9). THANKS!!

Our ARROWS are for ACTIONS -----→



"WOMEN BUILDING NETWORKS FOR PEACE"

MARCH 13 - 15, 1987

(This project is also endorsed by WILPF, YWCA, & Can. Fed. of University Women)

Sun. Mar 15 9.30 am - 1.00, 2.00, or ?? pm  
Plans for Action  
BC VOW Business. Election of Officers, etc.

## ACCOMMODATION

Billets are available: write Joan Jennings (address below).

ASSISTANCE available:

Travel funds for members outside the Lower Mainland area; also Bursaries. Again, please write Joan Jennings.

REGISTRATION is \$25.00, which includes Saturday lunch. Please fill out and send this form, with cheque payable to "B.C. Voice of Women", to Joan Jennings, 124 East Kings Road, North Vancouver, B.C., V7N 1H5.

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Billet? (Yes or No)



Provincially

VANCOUVER VOW

- \* City Council's threatened Peace Committee. Four VOW letters were added to those pleading for the retainment of the Peace Committee: those from Van. VOW, BC VOW, Irene Abbey and Alice Coppard. The decision has since been made to hold the Committee over for one more year.

VICTORIA VOW

- \* Terry Padgham and daughter Oona, recently returned from Nicaragua, have plunged into preparations for a veritable feast of speakers, panels workshops, displays, activities - you name it - for all who can get to the "SEARCH FOR JUSTICE IN CENTRAL AMERICA" event Feb. 27-28, preceded by a big public Rally Against BC Uranium Mining, Feb. 27 (page 1).
- \* Terry's hasty listing, over the phone, of VICVOW's incredible number of ongoing activities was so mind-blowing that I am unable to relay it with any degree of accuracy: sorry about that. - Ed.

OKANAGAN VALLEY

- \* Uranium. Peace and Environment groups from a wide area of the Interior have mounted a strong campaign here for extension of the B.C. Moratorium on Uranium Mining, 'Voice' John Moelaert playing a leading part.
- \* Veterans Against Nuclear Arms (VANA) have held well-attended meetings recently in Kelowna and Penticton, generating an increased local interest in nuclear disarmament.
- \* 'Voice' Kitty Wilson is as busy as ever, and has recently been giving peace issues lots of airing in newspapers up and down the Valley: a column here, a "People Profile" there, and a lengthy interview somewhere else. Keep it up, Kitty! It will be great to see you at our AGM in Vancouver in March.
- \* Naramata (from Kitty's column Feb. 11): "I'm as amazed as every other Naramatian, that Naramata has been declared Nuclear Weapons Free! At a properly publicized and constituted Annual General Meeting of the Naramata Citizens' Association. Support was also given for other locally 'motherhood' issues anti-uranium and anti-Utilicorp. But anti-nuke to be supported unanimously and without discussion! What-ever next!"

Across Canada

ARPILLERAS

- \* Word from Beth Hill of Salt Spring Is. is that there are at present two sets of these Chilean women's needlework pictures in Vancouver. Those now on display at the Women in Focus gallery (see page 1) will be touring B.C. later in March, and then the Yukon.
- \* Another set, impressively mounted, is at UBC, and will be shown across Canada - watch for dates in next B.C. Voice.

PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES

- \* Dorothy Smieciuch writes from VOW National office as follows:  
 "For the second year in a row, an "angel" from rural Ontario has paid the \$500 fee to Project Ploughshares on our (Nat. VOW's) behalf. This does not appear on our financial report as he donates directly to P.P., in our name, and the amount goes to our credit. Prior to these two years we had paid only \$150 each year and it was quite a miracle when this unsolicited donation took care of the increased fee.  
 (continued overleaf...)"

4. (Project Ploughshares, continued)

I was glad that the National Meeting agreed that we should continue our association with Project Ploughshares even though it cost us this rather large sum, but relieved when we did not have to use our members' precious donations."

- \* Note: for those who are wondering what P.P. does with "all this money", we have cheerful news. For one thing, they placed a full page ad in the Globe & Mail (circulation over 330,000) on Nov. 12/1986, asking for letters to insist on a Comprehensive Test Ban.

EDMONTON VOW

- \* have cards and stickers, will sell! The medium-sized cards, with dove and globe on dark blue ground, are blank inside for your own message. Very attractive. Pkt. of 10, with envelopes, \$5. The stickers are 1" X 2.7" decals (for letters etc.) with a row of children and the message NO WAR TOYS in red or green on white: 5¢ each. Order from Betty Mardiros, 8902 - 120th St., Edmonton, Alta., T6G 1X5. R

Globally

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

- \* Peace trusts funded. Two peace trusts have been established with \$2.4 million of the \$7 million US paid by France to compensate for its sinking of the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior, the New Zealand government announced yesterday. (Item in Van. Province, Dec.16/1986)

\$

PEACE TAX CAMPAIGN CATCHING ON IN ENGLAND

British peace activist SYBIL COOKSON was among some people summonsed to court in Sussex last November for diverting that portion of her Income Tax destined to be spent on military preparations. In an open letter she wrote:

"Immediately I received the Summons, I went to see the Editors of local Press, Radio, and TV: they responded well, giving me good publicity beforehand.

"On Nov. 25, the day of my Hearing, (according to press reports) over 50 friends and supporters were assembled with banners, etc., to greet me with applause and embraces; while my lasting impression is a mass of cameras, people and reporters rushing to meet me! The result is that I am to be called again to the Judge's Open County Court later on.

"The point is the resulting publicity, for which I am grateful. Hopefully, it will have started more people thinking. Every adult in our country pays on average £8 per week towards the Military Budget.

"...Some will know of MP Denis Canavan's Bill allowing people to withhold that portion of their Tax which at present is spent on arms... and to facilitate its payment by them ...to peaceful purposes. ...Denis will be bringing up his Bill again in the coming year.

"All those in agreement, please write to your MP, urging support for this Bill - talk about the matter with friends and acquaintances: word of mouth is the best (and cheapest) form of publicity."

- contributed by Freda Handford.



## B.C. VOICE GETS AROUND

Although most of our regular readers (members and subscribers) live in B.C., some are scattered across the rest of Canada, and there are several in the States. The Voice is sent on an exchange basis to many peace publications, and is placed in universities and other institutions across North America as well as in England, Russia, Europe and Japan. 5.

A long-time Saskatchewan reader has added a local friend to our subscribers' list; Ontario VOW Newsletter reprinted a whole page from our last issue (Bertell and Franklin speeches); and, in the U.K., Call to Women reprinted Alice Coppard's message about peace dove symbols from the same issue. B.C. member Elvira Bryant, now living in Maui, Hawaii, passes on her Voice to concerned friends in the Maui Retired Teachers' Assn.

Last but not least, 'Voice' Mary Hunter of Burnaby, who has for years bought extra subscriptions to place B.C. Voice in public libraries, will be leaving copies with friends in Australia and New Zealand during her trip there this month.

How's that for networking?

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"Do not despair. Speak out. Act." -- Margaret Laurence.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR


 Take a bow, Viva and Mary T. and Carolyn!

The B.C. Voice came with my Christmas mail, and I much enjoyed reading the enlarged edition - what a wealth of material, well worth the 68¢ it cost to mail, although I shall never stop resenting the high cost of postage for such things as our newsletters when all that junk mail comes so cheaply. I especially enjoyed reading Mary Thomson and Viva Flood on the VOW National meeting. (I am just no good at Conferences, especially those that last more than one day, and was almost oblivious to what was happening!)

...What a great idea to list all those MP's wives and their addresses. Thank you for that.


Dorothy Smieciuch, Toronto.

### New Year's Greetings from San Francisco

 Addressed to "BC Voice of Women", a card arrived in Hedley from SAN FRANCISCO WOMEN FOR PEACE on New Year's Eve. Under a graphic with clear peace and liberation message are the words FOR A MEANINGFUL SUMMIT.. NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING.. NO STAR WARS... Inside is written: "Best wishes for success in your work for peace & liberation. HAZEL GROSSMAN, for Women For Peace."

Thank you, Hazel, thank you S.F. Women For Peace. We wish the same to you!

### "Amerika"

 I'm happy to know of your plans to spread info. concerning "Amerika". ...Variety reported a "closed set", no reporters or visitors allowed. Last week (end of December) there was a piece in Variety to the effect that "Amerika" is having serious post-production problems - said by the producers to stem from not enough time to do all the cutting, editing, dubbing, etc. that are needed for a 12-hour mini-series - but one has to wonder if there may be some lack of funds, though no mention was made of any sponsor's pulling out. However, the birthday TV special about Reagan that was to be aired this week was cancelled before Christmas because all

(continued overleaf)



the sponsors backed out! It may never be shown.

In an earlier letter, Peggy advised: "If ABC does air this dangerous nonsense (under the guise of entertainment) the only way effectively to register a protest is by taking note of each company sponsoring "Amerika" and writing to each. Sponsors are really and truly sensitive to letters from the public, for the public is the consumers who buy the sponsor's product. Letters to the president of the company get attention - I know!"

Here are some more action ideas, from Comox Valley Nuclear Responsibility Society (CVNRS):-

- NB Address of ABC TV is 1330 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

"BEAUTIFUL BC - KEEP URANIUM UNDERGROUND"

- 1. Join the Rally (see page 1)
- 2. Call the Min. of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources, Jack Davis (387-1715). Mr. Davis also sits on the Atomic Energy Commission of Canada. Tell the office that you believe that the moratorium must be extended. (You will be asked to give your name and to state the area in which you live.)
- 3. Write letters to the Premier, the Min. of Energy and your MLA. Tell them that you do not believe the health of miners or the public at large should be jeopardized for the sake of 30 mining companies. Address of our provincial public servants: Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4.
- 4. Send letters to the Times-Colonist, the Globe & Mail, the Vancouver Sun, the Province and your local paper. Use the media to reach other people, alerting them about your concerns.
- 5. Raise the issue of the hazardous nature of uranium exploitation on call-in talk shows. The Premier appears on the 1st Sunday of every month on CKNW (98 AM Radio) from 1 - 2 p.m. Ask him how B.C. Medical Services will deal with the rising incidence of genetic-related diseases such as Down's Syndrome or with increasing numbers of cancer and leukemia victims that will inevitably occur if the moratorium is lifted. The Premier might also be asked how the wastes from the uranium industry will be dealt with, given that there is no safe means of disposing of them.

TAKE ACTION!!! ACTION!!! ACTION!!!

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS TAKEN FROM COMOX VALLEY NUCLEAR RESPONSIBILITY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER, JANUARY, 1987.



N.B. Items marked \*\*\* deserve your special attention, as resources for immediate action.

### Flyer

NEW NATIONAL VOW PROMOTIONAL FLYER \*\*\* - Adequate, up-to-date information about VOW. Handy purse-size 3-fold illustrated brochure includes provincial VOW addresses and the new National address (736 Bathurst St., Toronto, M5S 2R4); also membership application form. Available from the above address, also from Mary Cox. Invaluable for prospective new members! Order lots, now!

### Books

A BASIC PRIMER ON "STAR WARS" FOR THE LEGITIMATELY CONFUSED \*\*\* - a 13-page work-up of this subject by Ethel Taylor of Women Strike for Peace, published by that organization . . . . . 35¢

REAGAN, GOD & THE BOMB \*\*\* - by F.H. Knelman, 343 pp., McClelland & Stewart, \$22.95. Deals with "The Committee on the Present Danger" (on p. 17 several CPD members are mentioned, whose names we should all be constantly publicizing). PLEASE REQUEST YOUR LIBRARY TO GET THIS IMPORTANT BOOK. ←

### Sheets

INFORMAL CONSULTATION \*\*\* - by Kay Macpherson. A real eye-opener, this is Kay's account of the first of Dept. of Nat'l Defence's "exclusive" consultations, which she attended in Toronto Nov. 26/'86. In her attached note to VOW Board members she writes: "Since the Minister of Defence is travelling across Canada to find out what the Public thinks about Defence policy (before the White Paper comes out), we thought this account might be useful. Try to get at least one woman/peacenik in, if you hear about the "exclusive" consultations.

Read and learn what the DND types think of us!"

AN OCCUPIED CANADA? She Says It Could Happen - report of Greenham Common activist Kim Besley speaking in Nanaimo on her recent N. American tour. (Nanaimo Times reprint, Nov. 29/'86).

THE URANIUM ISSUE IN B.C. \*\*\* - a package you will find extremely useful if you are working against the upcoming lifting of the Moratorium on Uranium Mining, Feb. 27. A letter to the Premier with space for signatures, an up-to-date Info. Sheet, and actions suggestions and addresses to write to. Available from VicVOW/Greater Vic. Disarmament Group, P.O. Box 853, Station "E", Victoria, V8W 2R9. ←

### Periodicals

ATLANTIS was mentioned by Viva Flood in our last issue (Fall 1986, p. 6). Now we have the correct address for you: Mount St. Vincent University, 166 Bedford Highway, Halifax, N.S., B3M 2J6. Recommended by Kay Macpherson, it is published by the National Action Committee of the Status of Women (NAC).

CALL TO WOMEN - Again, B.C. Voice calls all of you to keep in touch with our U.K. counterparts by subscribing to this lively peace liaison newsletter. \$8 ('Minimum, please!', they ask) per year, to Marjorie Thorpe, 19 Shirley Drive, Worthing, Sussex, England.

B.C. VOICE - Give a Subscription! See page 9. ↗

(continued overleaf)



8. (periodicals, continued)

LAST CHANCE BULLETIN - publ. by Citizens' Energy Council, 77 Homewood Ave. Allendale, N.J. 07401. Recommended by Mary Cox, who is also enthusiastic about all C.E.C.'s material (write Citizens' Research Foundation, Box 97, Ardey, N.Y.).

GVDG NEWSLETTER - from Greater Victoria Disarmament Group (GVDG), P.O. Box 853, Station "E", Victoria, V8W 2R9.

DISARMAMENT TIMES - a United Nations publication, Us \$10 p.a., from 7770 North Plaza, Room 4A2, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017.

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#### WHAT DO THEY KNOW?

- by Betty Fairbank,  
Motherpeace/Hornby Is.

Eight women were acquitted on January 15 of trespassing on DND property when it was found that they were in fact on public land below high water mark, on Winchelsea Island, Nanoose Bay.

The original action last August had been yet another attempt to establish dialogue with our government regarding its agreements and compliance with U.S. nuclear weapons testing programs in Canadian waters. The acquittal on a technicality served government interests by neatly silencing our voices of inquiry and alarm one more time - no case, no dialogue.

A large and disturbing question remains: did higher authority at CFMETR/Nanoose, who ordered the arrests and proceeded to trial, know or not know that the foreshore below high water mark is legally accessible to all? If they knew, and planned the arrest regardless, then they (DND) are guilty of irresponsible intimidation and illegal proceedings, resulting in considerable expense and hardship to the arrestees, and in reprehensible waste of public time and money!

If they (DND) did not know the foreshore law, then it is reasonable to assume that they also may not know much more important things such as: what happens if fire breaks out on a nuclear-powered submarine in Nanoose Bay? Might the answer be "It's not our jurisdiction - it is a U.S. vessel."?

♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀

#### DR. KAY LANGSTON

Those of you who were "in at the beginning" of B.C. Voice of Women will remember Kay. She was one of our founding members, being elected Provincial (also a National) Vice President in 1961. She succeeded Marta Friesen as B.C. President, an office she held for several years (even she herself has become "a little foggy" as to how many!).

Now, from Naramata, where so many good people live, "Voice Frances Hatfield writes: "Drs. Kay and Bob Langston retired to the shores of Okanagan Lake after their busy professional lives in Vancouver. Here they keep a fine garden, and, in winter, a sunny indoor conservatory; and, as always, lend their support to the worthwhile causes of their recently adopted community of Naramata, B.C."

Happily, Kay has accepted a gift membership in B.C. VOW this year. Hello again, and warmest welcome, Kay!

\* \* \* \* \*

- D.B.



Poem from UK Mothers for Peace  
to  
"Our Friends the Soviet Mothers"

They told us you were  
Enemies,  
But you came bearing  
Gifts  
Not guns.

We shared with you  
Our homes,  
Our problems,  
A deaf child,  
A sick husband -

Above all  
Our fears of war -  
And in the sharing  
Found  
So great a bond  
Of common ground  
With which to build  
A multi-coloured arch of  
Peace  
From East to West.

The only arms  
We needed  
Were of flesh and blood  
To hold each other close  
In love and tears.

Then why are  
Nuclear missiles  
Pointing,  
Threatening  
Each to the other?

Jean Shinn

(from CVNRS Newsletter)

----- cut here ----- cut here ---  
B.C. VOICE OF WOMEN *N.B.* Have you read the notice at foot of p.1 ??  
APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP (please delete WHICHEVER DOES NOT APPLY)  
or RENEWAL

**NEW** Fees: Regular \$25 Low income \$10  
(or what you can afford)

Membership includes National Newsletter and B.C. Voice

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to Memb.Sec. Marian Shipley, 2079 Viewlynn Dr., N.Van., V7J 2W7

----> Cheque payable to Voice of Women <----

In the announcement (p. 20) of  
John Moelaert's Slide Show presen-  
tation on Nicaragua in our last  
issue, we gave a wrong telephone  
number. Our humblest apologies  
to all concerned.

The correct number is: 764-7407 ←

\* \* \* \* \*

### SUBSCRIPTION, ANYONE?

\* Subscriptions are for NON-mem-  
bers (newsletters are free to  
members).

\* Subscription fees go to: Cir-  
culation manager, Box 122, Hedley  
BC, VOX 1K0 (memberships go to  
Marian).

\* Subscription fee cheques should  
be payable to B.C. Voice (member-  
ships to VOW).

\* Subscribers get renewal reminders  
in the mail (members, being much  
more numerous, watch the dates on  
their address labels. At least,  
we hope they do!).

\* Subscriptions **MAKE GOOD GIFTS!** ←

\* Bad news, alas, but it was inevi-  
table: **SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW COST \$6**  
per year. (Memberships are up too,  
but with an "out" for those who are  
struggling financially).



10. Hon. William Vander Zalm, and  
Members of the Cabinet,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Victoria, B.C., V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Premier and Honourable Members:

I/We, the undersigned, request you to extend the moratorium on uranium exploration and mining in this province which is due to expire February 27, 1987.

In initiating the seven-year moratorium, former Premier Bill Bennett said that he was responding to the "very real" fear the public felt that uranium activity would do "irreversible harm to the environment and to us, the people who live in that environment."

Bennett felt that during the seven-year moratorium, our "knowledge of the handling of uranium may have progressed to the point where its mining is acceptable in B.C."

The passage of seven years has only made it more evident that the uranium in this province ought to be left underground. Not only is the mining and milling of uranium extremely hazardous to workers and the watershed; but also, no safe method of treating the waste ore or tailings exists. Recent legislative debates in the U.S. attest to these dangers. The tailings, which are non-biodegradable, contain radioactive materials thorium (half-life: 80,000 years) and radium.

We urge you to protect the people of British Columbia by providing a permanent moratorium on uranium exploration and mining, for our "knowledge of the handling of uranium" has certainly not "progressed to the point where its mining is acceptable in British Columbia."

Also, the provision of uranium which is vital to atomic weapons production is a matter for moral consideration.

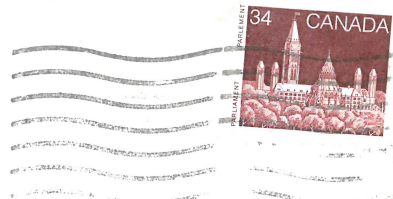
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

=====

-----> copy the above, sign and send it <-----

Editor, B.C. Voice,  
Box 122,  
Hedley, B.C.,  
VOX 1K0



Ex C

KSPC PeaceNews,  
c/o Charmian Ferguson,  
Box 973,  
KAMLOOPS, B.C. V2C 6H1  
V2C 6H1

Please  
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tape

Vol. 21, No. 1  
Feb. 1987