

ODDS 'N' ENDS

Everywoman's Almanac - available at the Women's Centre for \$8.95 - a good bargain.

St. Patrick's Day - Did you know that St. Patrick was probably an invented character based on the Roman Liber Pater, who was slain during the Ides of March. His festival was on March 17 and featured the crowning of an enormous phallus with a garland of flowers representing the divine Yoni. In Ireland, legend says that St. Patrick was sacrificed to the Moon Goddess. In Wales, he was slain by the Triple Goddess, Guinevere.

- from "The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets"

Women's Defense Fund - now accepting donations at Nelson & District Credit Union or at the Women's Centre. For West Kootenay women's legal expenses. Preference will be based on financial need and seriousness of situation.

Women in the NDP - Vicki Robinson began working as the women's organizer out of the provincial office in January 1986. She brings a wealth of experience and contacts with women's groups. She is enthusiastic about building on the role of women in the party and drawing in more women's groups. She is pleased to be working under federal and provincial women presidents of the NDP and is committed to working toward gender parity at all levels of the party from the grass roots up.

New Books in the Library - "Healing the Family" about pregnancy, birth, and children's ailments - by Joy Gardner.

- "Colour Healing" by Mary Anderson - chromotherapy and how it works.

- "Right Use of Will" by Ceanne deRohan

- "Healing Yourself" by Joy Gardner

- "...And Ladies of the Club", fiction novel by Helen Hoover Santmyer/

- "The Long Way Home", fiction novel by Alan Ebert / donated by Brenna

- "Evergreen", fiction novel by Belva Plain / Afford. Thanks Brenna

- a box of books just arrived from Marilyn Strong - they look good - thanks Marilyn

Birthparent Survey - are you the birthmother or birthfather of a child who was placed for adoption? Are you willing to provide some information about your adoption experience? Do you think B.C. should have a reunion registry for birthparents and adult adoptees. Questionnaires available from B.C. Public Interest Research Group, Room 144, Student Union Building University of Victoria, P.O. Box 1700, Victoria V8W 2Y2

Thanks to Sue for all her artful news and information displays at the Women's Centre.

Thanks also to all the volunteers who cheerfully and otherwise donate their time to countless tasks at and for the Women Centre.

Some suggestions for dealing with right wing women

1. **TRY RESPECT.** You want it yourself.
2. **TRY LISTENING.** There are reasons why they think the way they do. You may hear false information, false impressions of you, acute fears, things you can sympathize with or things you can use in the future. Remember that these women are insecure. If you pay attention to what they have to say, they won't have to use bizarre tactics. The anti-choice women in Toronto invited "Killer" Hisek to speak to them. If they can do it, we can do it. Infiltration can be tried by newcomers with nerve.
3. **TRY AGREEMENT.** Whenever you can, acknowledge what we have in common. That will lower their defensiveness, and let them see that you don't have horns and a tail. Focus on what you have in common. Mention "women AND THEIR FAMILIES" whenever possible.
4. **TRY TRUTH.** Whenever you can, confront propaganda with FACTS. Quote sources whenever possible. Do not reply on an emotional level.
5. **TRY SILENCE.** If they try to raise their profile by attacking the majority, don't co-operate. You give them undeserved credibility. Reply in terms of issues, not groups or individuals. Even when NAC urged a letter-writing campaign, it was on the basis of "groups which oppose equality for women," not against a named group.
6. **TRY WORKING TOGETHER.** Is there a project on which you can make common cause: housing for single mothers, pornography? Proceed carefully, because you are operating from a different value system, in part, and that will affect tactics and goals. Identify the consensus clearly before you start.
7. **TRY A MEDIATOR.** Find a person who has credibility on both sides. In Alberta, the feminists brought in a Catholic who is a strong pro-choicer. She and her arguments got lots of press.
8. **TRY to appeal to the heart.** "If it were your daughter, how would you feel?"
9. **TRY SELF-PROTECTION.** Make sure your constitutions are tight and clear, immune to takeovers. Make sure YOU are on regular speaking terms with your MP and MLA, whatever party. They represent YOU too.
10. **TRY SELF-EXAMINATION.** Why am I angry? Am I jealous? Do I feel betrayed? You will be less vulnerable, more calm, when you've confronted you.
11. **TRY GOAL-CLARIFICATION.** What is our objective? To discredit them? What will be the result? Discrediting ourselves? Do we want to challenge their facts? Get them on our side?
12. **TRY BOLDNESS.** Talk TO them, not ABOUT them.

Good luck!

- provided by Donna Stewart, N.A.C.