

Ave 1981

Festival specially for Women

A combination of fun and information is slated for Saturday afternoon's Women's Festival at the Vallican Whole in the Slocan Valley.

Bette Bateman, one of the event's organizers, said in an interview Wednesday that 20 films, half from Selkirk College and half

from the National Film Board, will be screened. Four workshops are also slated.

One workshop will stress wen-do, or women's self-defense. The method stresses how women can use their strengths to escape an attacker. Another seminar demonstrates body movement to music.

A third workshop, given by a woman doctor, deals with preventative medicine, ways in which women can promote their own physical well-being. The fourth discusses the B.C. Federation of Women, an affiliation of 120 women's groups in the province which lobbies for full rights for all women, as well as improvement of women's economic status.

A highlight of the event, open to all women and children, is live music by Contagious, a Vancouver women's band. Crafts, plant sales, free child care, and pot luck will round out the day, which is sponsored by the West Kootenay Women's Association.

Bateman noted that benefits such as the one on Saturday, help to fund association projects, such as the Nelson Women's Centre. Last year, she said, 679 women dropped into the Vernon Street centre, which has a library on various topics, and 319 called in. Centre volunteers help women with pre-natal classes, family conflicts, housing, human resources, unemployment insurance, and birth control. Calls to the centre are often related to women or children suffering from family violence, Bateman said.