

Wife - Obey

As mentioned in last weeks editorial 1975 has been designated by the Secretary General of the United Nations as International Women's Year. Events such as an international conference on the status of women in June in Mexico City, along with every countries presenting individual programs to observe Women's year are scheduled. Women are also urged to organize study groups and exhibitions under their own steam.

One might rightfully query "Hey what's all this about?" Do we need the UN to set aside one whole year to try and solve some of the major contradictions and double standards women face in their every day lives? Let's face it things aren't that bad ladies -- women, as an issue, are actually in style these days. Big businesses are advertising for qualified women executives, women have made it into politics, they are breaking down the traditional barriers in fields like law, medicine, engineering and maybe even into the academic world. But are all these great transformations really taking place? Are qualified women really being sought out or are we actually experiencing tokenism in a wider range of fields. Can there actually be any change recorded when one out of fifty executives is a woman yet women constitute over fifty percent of the population. And this one woman executive will probably be expected to do her own typing 'cause let's face it why waste a secretary on a woman.

No I don't mean to take all this too far and smother my point, that being things don't really change cause a few people make it into the big time. Change occurs when serious questions start to get asked about womens rights and maybe more to the point the powers that be start to seriously consider some answers.

Now I do not want to ignore a possible good aspect of having an International womens Year. Although in a country like Canada I think the problem of changing laws to insure equal rights has been achieved for the most part but coping with attitudinal as well as conscieness are the subtle goals that have to be accomplished. But Canada is more fortunate than other countries with regards to legislating womens rights.

Swiss women, for example, did not get the vote until 1971. Divorce became legal in Italy only in 1974. In Ethiopia, Mali, Jordan, Tunisia and Colombia, the law still stipulates that a wife must obey her husband in all matters.

In Saudi Arabia, women do not vote. They are allowed to attend institutions of higher learning, but they are not permitted to sit in classrooms with men and must listen to male lecturers in a separate room on closed-circuit television. They are also forbidden by law to drive cars. A women physician who makes house calls must take a male driver.

Even in those countries where outmoded laws have been stricken from the books, custom tends to prevail. In Thailand, for example, polygamy is now against the law - but it is still widely practiced. Women around the world have a lot of catching up to do.

So one of the major reasons for taking International Women's year seriously is because it may be through international awareness as well as international effort that we can try rectifying some of the gross inequality's women experience in other countries. So even if your own consciouness is raised and your battles are being won, there are others, both in this country and in the world, not so far advanced.

Canada's Oldest Newspaper

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Letters

Groans Committee

To the Gazette:

It is refreshing to see the intricacies of the Student Union bureaucracy explain-

ed. The process of applying for money from 'different pockets of the same coat' leads one to an interesting

hypothetical.

Suppose that rather than having one Groans committee responsible for funding societies, who may then administer the funds, there will be added a Leecher's Series Fund to recognize the desirability of funding speakers coming to the University. This would then require those wishing to take advantage of it to (1) find out about it (2) submit their own funds to its in its administration whereby 6 people independently arrange a possible maximum of 6 speakers for a specified weekday.

The funds made available would increase; applicant societies could establish autonomous sub societies to apply for and administer these funds; decentralization of planning in applicant societies would increase the morale of those involved. Perhaps the process could also develop in the Student Union itself entitling them to go in two directions at once and do the same thing 6 times.

Emphasising the ability to obtain funds rather than

the quality and breadth of the program being run, has shown itself as the criteria for disbursement of funds. Thanks for the explanation folks.

Mike Burke
Law

Rink Defence

To the Gazette:

I would like to respond to the article entitled "Rink Rip-Off" submitted by Michael Cooper and David MacLean which was published in the January 9th issue of the Gazette.

Scheduling ice time at the Dalhousie Rink is certainly a headache for those who must undertake this task. The people involved in allocating ice time do the best they can with what they have to work with and for the number of people (students and others) that they must deal with. I can sympathize with you regarding the loss of ice time when you expected it to be available, but I think you were a bit hasty

in your judgment. I am referring to your statement "Miss Nila Ipson is grossly incompetent in her position as intramural coordinator."

This is the second year that I have worked as an intramural supervisor for Nila Ipson and I find your rude remark extremely hard to believe. To make such an unwarrantable statement as that, you can't realize the intricacies and problems involved in designing such a complete and varied intramural program that Dalhousie has to offer it's students. Much of Nila's time and effort is devoted to setting up schedules, allocating field and gym time, keeping records, arranging the intramural banquet and supplying awards. Nila Ipson is very well qualified for her position as Intramural Coordinator and if she could do more for the students, believe me, she would. I think you owe her an apology along with a hearty thank you for all her good works.

Lorraine Stevens
Intramural Supervisor