

Women's Week gets off with a bang

By Cheryl Croucher

That women will find their identity by recognizing their differences from men was the main point of the Women's Week Forum Monday night that attracted a capacity crowd in SUB Theatre.

Guest speaker Dr. Elizabeth Jeffress a psychiatrist from Woodside, California was the key speaker on the topic "Women—Who is She?". The panel included Dr. Henry Kriesel, Academic Vice-president of the U of A, Mrs. Henriette Aubin, Dean of Women and Vera Radio, Students' Union secretary.

Dr. Jeffress's speech, informative, interesting and liberally sprinkled with humorous puns of sexual origin, dealt with changing the definitions of woman from chauvinist ones such as Freud's, an individual lacking the proper equipment. The basis of the speech was biological stressing that women are not like and are not equal to men from the very beginning.

She pointed out that the male body is a closed system while the female's is open and therefore she is unable to completely explore her body leaving a mysterious aura in the psyche. This leads to the different rates in the development of children as they pass through latency and puberty to adulthood.

Social pressures influenced the psychology of women further widening the gulf between male and female. The availability of contraceptives rob the young girl of her chance to fantasize, pushing her into sexual relationships when "her vagina is ready but her head is not". Also, the female is forced to seduce the male, whereas the male can penetrate at will.



Seated left to right: Vera Radio, Dr. Jeffress, Dr. Kriesel and Mrs. Aubin

Jeffress further points to the lack of understanding of males when it comes to hysterectomy and vasectomy which incidently, are followed by more psychological problems than any other pelvic operations].

"Let them consider, however, the removal of their testicles," she said.

She continued by saying the survival of the human race is dependent on changing the attitudes of society toward women. Uncontrolled reproduction must stop in order to prevent a growth of population so great that the earth can no longer support it, thus leading to the destruction of the human race.

When women are no longer considered as reproductive objects, then the real search for identity and self can begin. However this has its risks and women must be willing to take on responsibility for their own development. They must stop blaming men and get over the "If it weren't for you" complex.

Women, Dr. Jeffress felt, must realize their own sex and uniqueness if they are to make any change for the better, and refrain from getting involved in the power hierarchy of the man's world. Women are physically too weak to win in this game. Rather women must, she states, enter the game to change the rules so that both

men and women can survive. The reason is that we can no longer treat man as the prototype of the human race. He is far too aggressive and masochistic as evidenced in the power hierarchies and the war he perpetuates. Women must take advantage of their own survival instincts and become the model for all mankind. She fears that women may very well adapt, will learn to play the power game thereby eliminating any hope of establishing the identity of women as women, not men, and continuing the downward spiral toward human annihilation. As both Kriesel and Aubin later emphasized, the "shift in consciousness" takes time, but it

will come to liberate and establish woman as "a person who wants to be herself and not an appendage to someone else". Even the prefixes Miss and Mrs. define a woman in the terms of the man.

Kriesel did express hope that women in their search for definition and identity, will not be chauvinist, and will not look at achievement in "terms of male and female, but in terms of human".

Dr. Jeffress also expressed the need to delete the terms "masculine" and "feminine" from the vocabulary, as these terms have no meaning. Certain qualities, virtues, and emotions can not be assigned to one sex or the other; they belong to both.

Following the speech and the commentaries, members of the audience directed questions to the speakers. Many expressed concern that Dr. Jeffress placed too much emphasis on the biological aspects and differences between the sexes—that these are not the important issues. However Dr. Jeffress replied that society being asked to ignore a person's sex is wrong. Women "must develop their own uniqueness" because what is at stake are non-sexual things such as education and work opportunities that have nothing whatsoever to do with a person's sex.

She also pointed out, in answer to additional queries and outbursts, that women did not make the work institutions, men did. That the institutions no longer meet peoples need is becoming more and more evident.

It is up to women to change these institutions because it is too great a blow to the male ego for the men to change them

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU

OTTAWA (CUP)— Suspicion has arisen here that Solicitor-General Jean-Pierre Goyer has been suffering from a bad case of over-active imagination in recent statements to the press about the threat of political crisis in Quebec in October, 1971.

The cabinet minister who last fall created a special security force to keep tabs on "subversives" wherever in the country they might be lurking, told the *Toronto Star* in an interview (January 20) that only "the rapid intervention of the police" averted a situation that "might have been worse" than the Cross-Laporte kidnappings of October, 1970.

"It might have been kidnappings or political assassination," he refused, however, to elaborate on his claim but said that the increasingly sophisticated methods of gathering information on dissident groups enabled police in Quebec to circumvent any "TERRORIST" threat from the outlawed Front de Liberation du Quebec last October.

Goyer's claims and intimations seem to come as something of a surprise to the men chiefly responsible for sniffing out subversion in Quebec. A senior officer of the combined anti-terrorist squad—composed of RCMP provincial and Montreal police—was quoted by Canadian Press as saying, "As far as we know there are no tangible

grounds to make that statement (Mr. Goyer's) stick...how can you say something might have been worse if it never happened."

After these statements of bewilderment from Quebec Police officials about what was or was not averted last October, the solicitor-general began to retreat.

In a subsequent interview, last week, Goyer said he had not intended to "create the impression" that a crisis had been averted. He refused to

comment further on his prior claims of terrorist activity and instructed members of his staff to remain silent about what he might have meant.

Goyer's mysterious statements did, however, bring to public attention some information on the means being used by police in dealing with a political activity in Quebec.

In a story appearing in Saturday's *Montreal Star*, what the paper describes as a "reliable police source" said that electronic eavesdropping

equipment had played a major role in the smashing of an FLQ cell last fall. He said, "Bugs" had been planted in the homes, offices and autos of a number of suspected FLQ members and sympathizers.

"No, as far as I know we didn't have court orders authorizing us to use the bugs and frankly, I'm not going to lose any sleep over it," the officer said.

"And I'm certain there will be a large hue and cry from civil rights groups when they find

out about this, especially if you tell them we have other bugs in operation right now," he added.

He went on to say that the cell police broke up was composed of about a dozen persons.

"We never did get enough evidence to charge any of them with attempted murder or attempted kidnapping—because those are usually tough charges to make stick in front of a jury—but we charged some of them with a variety of charges involving weapons and such."

fine for large international corporations, but was definitely not the way a university Students' Union should have acted."

The election for the 1972-73 council and executive has tentatively been set for Friday, February 18, a Friday. Nominations close on February 11th.

The Gateway wishes to apologize for the confusion caused by the omission of a notice of the cancellation of the evening lecture of Tariq Ali last Thursday. The forums committee informed the paper but through an oversight the notice was omitted.

The article "Who is to Blame for Barriers to Equality?" in the January 18, 1972 issue of *Casserole* was written by Mary Nixon.

McRae running for pres

Ann McRae, 4th year science student, declared her candidacy for president of the Students' Union Monday. She is the only person to declare her candidacy for the upcoming election. Several others have been removed to be running for the position of president, among them are, Dave Biltek and Mark Priegert.

McRae states that the main plank of her election platform is to decentralize power in the students council, rather than have the president and executive vice president holding a great deal of power that would occur in Academic vice-president, Dave Biltek's proposed council reorganization.

McRae says that the document presented by Biltek to council last week is "a document that scares the hell out of me."



She says that the main fault with the present council and executive is that they have done nothing, but she also says that

"anything they could try to do would be detrimental."

The reorganization of council would in effect place the majority of power in the hands of the president and his executive vice president enabling them to pass legislation without council being able to put up much in the way of opposition.

McRae, is presently the manager of the soup kitchen at Room at the Top on weekends. Last year she ran for president against Don McKenzie and was defeated. The previous year she was the secretary of the Students' Council and Science rep the year before.

Asked for her comments on the CUPE struggles at the beginning of the year between council and the SUB workers, she said that the attitude of the council at the time "might be