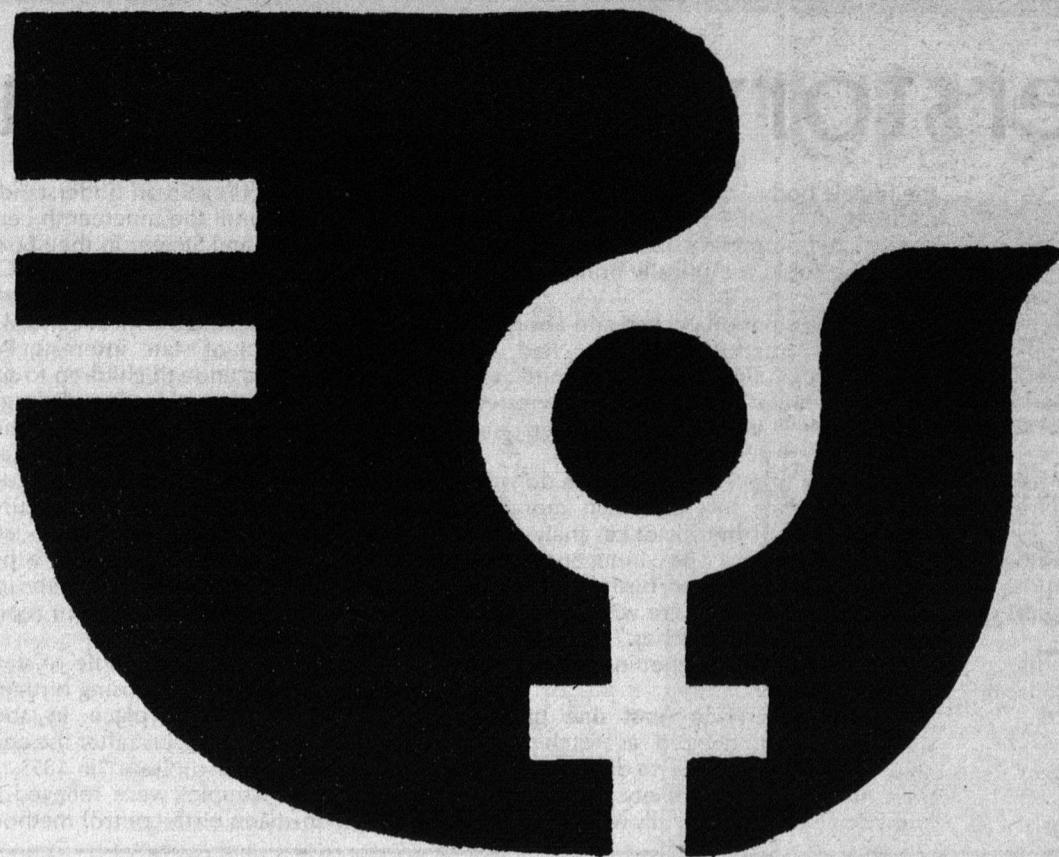


Women's Day! International Women's Day! International



March 8th is International Women's Day, celebrated around the world since 1910.

It was created to acknowledge the many strengths of women who work together to achieve common goals. Women of all ages, social classes and political beliefs are encouraged to organize and demonstrate against the inequalities which women still face.

There will be a parade on Saturday, March 10th, in solidarity with women all over the world. The March leaves the Legislature at 11:30 a.m. and finishes at the Centennial Library.

All men and women are encouraged to attend.

Women's Awareness Week at the U of A

by Anne Grever

The first presentation of Women's Awareness Week (March 5-10) was, appropriately, a workshop on communicating the women's movement to a larger audience. Attended by approximately 15 people, the workshop concentrated on the use of film and drama in the women's movement.

The speaker, Judie Drucker, presented methods of "animating" a film, or screening a film. Topics covered included how to produce a film, types of film, and obtaining funding for films.

Drucker mentioned that funding is difficult to obtain in Western Canada, "where the government is not terribly keen on funding films on feminism."

She also talked about screening already produced films, referring to Studio D of the National Film Board of Canada which supplies feminist films.

Methods of encouraging discussion, pitfalls to avoid in post-film dialogue, and the structure of discussion were emphasized as strongly as the presentation of the film itself.

Two short films were shown: "Would I Ever Like To Work" and "The Spring and Fall of Nina Polanski". Both films were discussed at length.

Drama as a form of feminist communication was also presented by the Hecates Players. The players, by a "collective theatre process", dramatized a variety of feminist writings, some dating back almost a hundred years.

Women's Awareness Week held this past week by the U of A Women's Centre and the Students' Union, coincides with a world-wide commemoration of International Woman's Day, March 8. This day celebrates the strike by women textile workers of New York, on March 8, 1857.

Cross-Canada struggle

by Canadian University Press

"What do you do when you discover that students are walking out of your class at the beginning of the term because you are a woman?" asks University of Toronto professor Kathryn Morgan in her paper "Amazons, Spinsters and Women: A Career of One's Own."

What do you do? The question is generating controversy at campuses across the country as educational institutes frantically set up committees, establish affirmative action programs, and publically proclaim their support for women in the face of increasing criticism against sex discrimination.

Morgan, who teaches philosophy and women's studies, says in her paper women professors are subject to alienation and self-consciousness because male professors and students judge them on the basis of sex. She points out women professors are greatly outnumbered, occupy lower-paid positions, and face reprisal if they take time off for pregnancy.

Her points are clearly backed up in "Some Questions of Balance," a recent report by the Commission on Canadian Studies. The report discusses the larger issue of the commission's 85 recommendations relating to the status of women.

Some institutions have dealt with the problem through affirmative action, but not without a great deal of opposition, even from women. At Concordia University in Montreal, the senators who objected

strongly to the establishment of a committee to study the status of women at Concordia were two women.

Another institution that has taken concrete steps to increase the number of women professors and their salaries is Dalhousie University in Halifax. Since the release of a status of women report four years ago, the faculty association, the president's committee on the employment of women and the Dalhousie Women's Faculty Association have succeeded in attaining better conditions for women.

"There are now more women in teaching and administrative positions and relative salaries have improved," says professor Judith Fingard, History Department Chair and Vice-president of the Women's Faculty. But she stressed the need for further work.

One victory women attained during contract negotiations last year was an agreement to make part time professors - of which a high proportion of women - eligible for tenure. "We are all very pleased (with the new collective agreement)," said Women's Faculty President Christine Boyle.

"It shows that this university is a progressive employer that is not prepared to allow women to wallow in the ghetto of secondary employment and job discrimination."

Despite such victories, women still face a difficult struggle in academia. And that struggle gets even tougher as government funding for education shrinks.