

March against violence a peaceful affair

Women's demands voiced at Take Back the Night rally

By JULIE ROBINSON

Thousands of Canadian women from across the country united in an expression of anger and solidarity to protest violence against women and children in Take Back the Night marches. A small, but enthusiastic contingent of York women participated in the Toronto event last Friday.

The march was preceded by a lively rally that focused on the theme of women reclaiming control of their lives. Demands were voiced not only for the liberation of women's bodies from male abuse, but also for freedom from the historical rule of men and the tyranny of church and state.

The need for women to assert themselves and become autonomous was articulated time and again on the stage. Arlene Mantle's inspirational lyrics urged women to rise and organize. The enemy, Mantle warned, is the Right with its sexist-racist prejudices that seek to subjugate women.

Inspiration was also offered in a poem by York graduate Lillian Allen about the struggle of Black women to break the chains of generations of oppression. In lines referring to the growing empowerment of the oppressed, Allen served notice to the conservative order; "We are the subversive; we are the underground."

"Discriminatory" laws were challenged by representatives of the Reproductive Rights and Prostitutes' Rights movements calling for legislation to legalize abortion and soliciting.

Other highlights included a monologue performed by Jenny Fuller and a choreographed demonstration of Wen-do (self-defence) techniques. Fuller's monologue dealt with the

misconceptions and lack of sensitivity surrounding the issue of sexual assault.

Mariruth Morton of the Rape Crisis Centre listed the names of recent victims of sexual attacks, including York student Julie Slater, who was stabbed to death last week.

An edge of bold resolve bordering on defiance, however, was retained by those sounding noise-makers and repeating rhythmic chants.

The success of a group of Riverdale women in organizing community meetings to share information and learn ways to combat rape was related. Their experience in taking concrete measures was hoped to spur similar action in other neighbourhoods.

By the time the march began its weave through the Yonge and Bloor Street areas, the mood was almost celebratory. An edge of bold resolve bordering on defiance, however, was retained by those sounding noise-makers and repeating rhythmic chants. Among the most often heard were "They Say Stay Home, We Say Fight Back" and "We Have The Right To Walk At Night."

The reaction of bystanders ranged from disinterested to amused and supportive. Few derisive insults were hurled. The two incidents which marred the otherwise orderly and peaceful march came at the end, both involving the police.

The first of these incidents brought the procession to a halt when a woman was noticed surrounded by policemen. A brief period of hissing and booing ended

when the woman, identified as Sheri Goegan, dashed across the street into the arms of marchers. Goegan claims she was simply cheering on the demonstration when she was ordered out of the convertible in which she was a passenger. Goegan further claims she was told to "shut up or be shut up" and asked if her problem was that she "couldn't find a husband."

In the second incident the van used in the March was ironically ticketed for a noise violation. Since the 1970s Take Back The Night marches have been used by women around the world as a symbol of their refusal to be silenced.



HUMANIST SIGNAGE: Toronto women voice their concerns in no uncertain terms, garnering reactions from passersby ranging from disinterest to supportiveness.

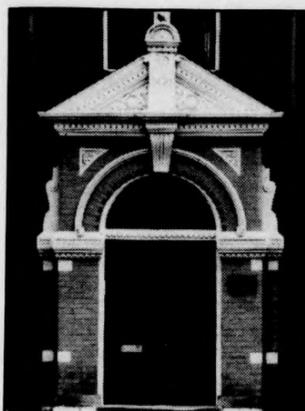


Photo: Ian Maceachern

Symbols of Aspiration

Victorian Architecture in London and S.W. Ontario
September 2 to October 3

Art Gallery
of York University
Ross Building N145
736-5169

Not Really Trees

Our outdoor exhibition of
Sculptures by Louis Stokes
Through September 25

KEEP IN MIND

THE LAST DAY FOR ENROLLED STUDENTS TO PAY ACADEMIC FEES FOR FALL AND FALL/WINTER COURSES IS:

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 3, 1986**

Students who have not paid their fees and the applicable late service charges to complete the registration process by this date will be de-enrolled and their Fall Term and Fall/Winter courses will be cancelled.

Anyone wishing to register after this date must submit a written petition to the Registration Office no later than **Friday, November 7, 1986**. The appropriate form is available from the Registration Office, Suite C130, West Office Building, telephone 736-5155.

Petitions which demonstrate administrative default on the part of a University office or cover compassionate reasons are considered. The Registrar's decision is final.

Office of the Registrar
September 25, 1986

CHRISTMAS CHARTERS

BOOK NOW.
Limited
Seats Available.

ROUND TRIP FLIGHTS

VANCOUVER \$399

EDMONTON \$379

SASKATOON \$319

WINNIPEG \$249

SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT APPROVAL

TRAVEL CUTS

UNIVERSITY
OF TORONTO
187 College
979-2406

RYERSON
96 Gerrard St.
East
977-0441

TRAVEL CUTS
Going Your Way

September 25, 1986 EXCALIBUR Page 9