

## International Women's Day

# Reflections of a March

by Gretchen Polkamp

At 1:15 p.m., we are late as usual. We hurry to the corner to join the marchers as they pick up their placards and get ready to walk down Spring Garden Road. A police car with red lights flashing rolls solemnly at the front of the crowd and another brings up the rear, unsmiling men marshalling our protest. In between are women of all ages, celebrating International Women's Day.

International Women's Day, with its peaceful solidarity march became an unusual event for a small group of women in Halifax. This year approximately 125 women marched through the downtown area on March 7.

In previous years, men have joined in the march, but this year the group agreed to ask men to show their support by helping with the daycare at the YMCA or by doing a col-

leagues work so that she could join the march.

Someone hands us a song sheet, we link arms and chant.

*Up from the kitchens,  
Up from the bedrooms,  
Up from under, Women  
Unite!*

We sing of revolution and liberation from bosses and housework, of bread and roses for our lives.

The mood is subdued at first. We feel conspicuous with our slogan signs. We join in the chorus of the songs, singing without conviction. But as we move down Barrington Street, we have become an entity with a common purpose.

Some one at the front asks "What do you want?" "Freedom!" we shout in unison. "When do we want it?" she asks. "NOW!", we roar. It is energising, invigorating, this unity of purpose. We are

drawn together.

People on the street raise their arms in support. No one jeers. Women in office windows wave to us as we pass. We feel our march has achieved its purpose, but we know it can only really be called successful when women pour out of office buildings and join in the march as we pass.

The march ended in the park outside the CN station. Heather Harrington, one of the organizers of the march, spoke to the women, listing changes which are needed in order to give women the equality they are struggling for.

She said women have a vision of a society which offers a better life to all and which fulfills human needs. She also listed demands, to achieve these ends, calling for an end to exploitation of women in the workplace, and end to violence against women, and reproductive freedom.

## Universities must respond to Business needs

Universities should be more responsive to labour market needs was the overriding opinion of educators gathered here March 3 for a conference on financing universities.

The conference, sponsored by the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the University of Toronto Institute for Policy Analysis, was, according to organizers, a response to the federal government's intention to severely cut back provincial funding of education. However, the question of government responsibility was not addressed in the conference's first session.

Instead, the focus of the session entitled "Population and Manpower Issues" was cooperation with the business sector. This would aid universities, since, according to University of Waterloo dean of graduate studies Lynn Watt,

the universities represent a valuable resource of high qualified manpower, research talent and new knowledge" which can play an important role in business.

Watt stressed the need for funding for research in science and engineering but said the declining rate of PhD graduates will mean that should research funds increase dramatically, there would be shortage of qualified researchers.

Watt dismissed the notion of the unemployed PhD. "This pool of unemployed grads has never exceeded five per cent, far below the dire predictions of the late 60's," he said.

"In Ontario there continues to be a great deal of effort aimed at curtailing the growth of graduate schools when the problem is clearly that they are not expanding rapidly enough in the sciences and

engineering," said Watt.

Jill Stocker, director of educational relations of the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association, said corporations and universities must work together, to their mutual advantage.

"Businessmen generally do not see universities as a service sector which can be of assistance to them, rarely do they seek solutions to corporate problems through university resources, and the result is a state of mutual myopia," she said.

The speakers agreed that the future of Canadian universities lies in efficient planning and increased productivity. David Foot, of the department of political economy at the University of Toronto, said understanding demographic trends can aid universities make full use of the educational "services" they produce.

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patients are university students because this information is not required by the clinic.

Controls of VD for the province is handled through the provincial Department of Health. Noreen Murphy, the province's only full time VD Control Nurse, does all contact tracing for the metro area. Other regular duty community health nurses handle the rest of the province. "The reason for this," says Murphy, "is that it is more efficient to have one person dealing with all the cases, than to have several people tracing and retracing the same contacts." Her job is made all the more important by the fact that Halifax is a seaport, and as such the incidence for VD is much higher here than the rest of the province.

"There is a problem here," says Murphy. "Between 1979 and 1980 the incidence of gonorrhoea has increased from 984 cases to 1064 in Metro." This is not an alarming rate Murphy admits, but it is nevertheless a noticeable increase. These statistics are based on reported cases. Dr. Levine, also with the Department of Health, estimates the actual incidence is probably 2 to 3 times higher. Gonorrhoea and syphilis are of primary concern to the health department, but a relatively new disease, chlamydia, has also become a concern.

In response to the question should doctors report names, Murphy replied that if names were reported, from a public health standpoint, it would be far more effective in tracing. Since most doctors report only the numbers of cases, if that at all, the job is more

difficult. There is no problem when doctors do not report however, because lab reports for the province go through her office. "Many doctors do not report simply because they know we will get the lab reports anyhow, and they feel the duplication is not necessary." Many doctors do not report for confidentiality reasons.

VD is a problem at universities because the number of single people on campus is large. Social interaction in the age group 18 to 25 years is considerably high. Dr. Gill indicates there is a higher incidence of STD's among this age group and stressed the importance of coming in for treatment if you show symptoms of a venereal disease or if you are sexually active. Many STD's show no signs, but can cause harm or be transmitted anyway.

## Attention All Arts Students!

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