

A Day of the Woman

NDP's Lewis attacks "mindless prejudice"

In celebration of International Women's Year, Stong College presented A Day of the Woman last Friday.

In the following articles, Excalibur reporter Brenda Weeks reports on the day's happenings.

As the head-liner and opening speaker for women's day at Stong College last Friday, Ontario NDP leader Stephen Lewis expressed an uncertainty about the concept of International Women's Year, as he spoke on Women in Politics.

"It is manipulative to give authenticity to things that don't exist," Lewis began. "In other words, it is giving a status to tokenism."

Lewis said he grows skeptical when the endless government conferences fail to make resolutions, and are insulting to women besides.

Why are such evident and pressing subjects, as equal pay for equal work and day-care, the end of all this mindless discussion? "The intellectual jocks and professional sophists always seem to have an aphorism ready."

Lewis indicated that the relentless application of pressure is the answer to discrimination, but he said, "I am sure women must weary occasionally from having to say the obvious to men, when it is so difficult to get the obvious accepted."

The NDP platform, as presented by Lewis, looks towards more women emerging in major positions of political influence.

"We are not succeeding however," Lewis stated, "due to the small percentage of women vying for seats. It is tough for women to get nominations

because of all the absurd and mindless prejudices that exist."

Lewis also fielded a question from the audience concerning attempts by the NDP to eliminate the falseness of International Women's Year. Lewis smiled in response, "We attempt that by coming to these groups. Also we

are consistently making speeches in the house that this is errant nonsense."

Lewis clearly made his point when he demanded: "Show me a piece of legislation that International Women's Year has changed. Where are the great strides?"

Stuckey calls for action on status of women report

Women's day would not have been complete without Johanna Stuckey, chairperson of the senate task force on the status of women at York University. Stuckey's talk, Women in Universities, was for the most part a commentary on the task force report.

"The issue has been studied and studied," she began. "It is time for action."

Stuckey stated that York has a higher percentage of female faculty than most other Canadian universities. "Twenty per cent of the full-time faculty at this university is women, and yet they make, on the average, \$500 a year less than the men. Equalizing salaries is the first step, but something must be done about attitudes as well.

"After all, there is an inter-relationship between what goes

world at large.

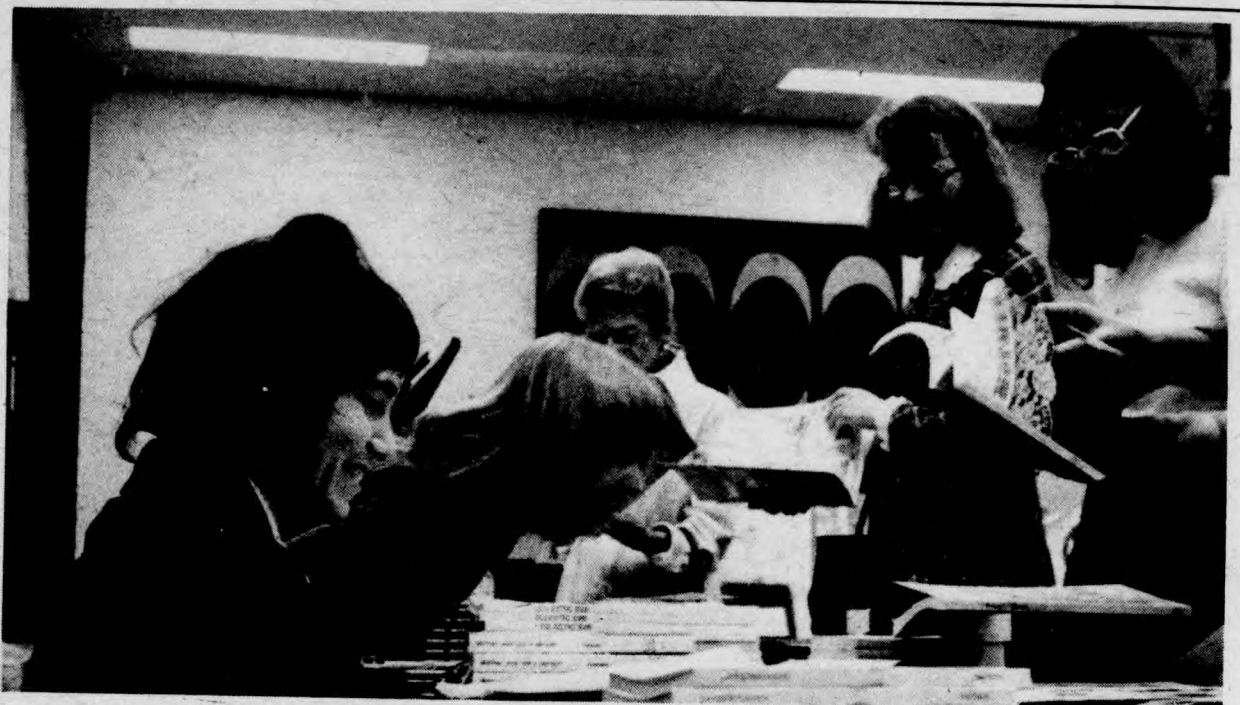
"Being a librarian presents problems as well," she added. "Their jobs are considered as second-rate to begin with, and the women are generally a good deal older, having been there longer, but they are not promoted accordingly."

In terms of immediate action, Stuckey said she plans to go through the regular channels to effect fairer faculty benefits. A faculty women's council is being formed presently, and a law student in the audience volunteered that a women's caucus is also being formed at Osgoode Hall.

A male member of the audience asked Stuckey why individual women are afraid to negotiate job improvements. Immediately answers came from the floor; one woman said the employer's view is, "Well, if you don't like it, you know where to go."

As the audience cooled down, Stuckey said that women have been trained to be less assertive.

"Ever since the war, a job in competition has always been given to the man supporting a family. Most women don't know that the mechanism of the human rights commission and the employment standards bureau could allow for legal action," Stuckey advised.



Frumie Diamond and Elizabeth Martin (seated) of the Canadian Women's Education Press at Stong's day for women, last Friday in Stong college.

Women's press battles discrimination

The topic Women and Publishing was brought to life by the presentation of real-life publishers, Elizabeth Martin and Frumie Diamond of the Canadian Women's Educational Press. Their company may be called revolutionary, in that they publish books written only by women.

In the talk centering around their table of books, Diamond examined some of the obstacles that their operation faces.

"We are operating in a cut-throat, male-dominated business world," she said.

"One book store in Winnipeg refuses to stock our books, because they say they are disgusted with some of the liberated women they've met. For related reasons, it is difficult to get reviews of our books in city newspapers."

Diamond said that the organization has been accused of being sexist, since it is exclusively female. She said that their reply must be that as long as they live in a sexist society, this platform is necessary.

It was made clear that the Women's Press faces financial difficulties as well.

"It is a hard struggle to find the initial capital to market a new book," Diamond continued. "The problems are compounded by the fact that so many sectors of the market are dominated by foreign books, and that we are also a publisher in Canada."

Diamond substantiated this by reading some of the statistics of

the meagre ratio held by Canadian books on the world publishing market.

Beth Appeldoorn, owner and creator of the Longhouse Canadian Bookshop, was also present at the talk, and continued on this theme.

"Canadian booksellers are inefficient because they don't promote Canadian books. We can't blame the public," she added, "because they are not aware. It is up to the Canada Council to cause agitation for such things as a badly needed paper-back industry in Canada."

The women's press and Longhouse Bookstore are located on Bloor Street, across from Rochdale College, and at 630 Yonge Street, respectively.

Cole's Stein solo hits dramatic high

The dramatic highlight of women's day was Nancy Cole's solo theatre performance, Gertrude Stein's Gertrude Stein. (The script was written by Cole, based on Stein's writings.)

Extracts from many Gertrude Stein works were admirably read and enacted by Cole, among them The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas, Picasso, and Paris Was Our Mistress.

Cole's fine acting ability eliminated any possible choppiness as she stepped easily from one role and immersed herself into another, or completed one reading to begin the next.

Cole's admiration for Stein and her works was clearly evident as she led her spell-bound audience in and out of several doors of imaginative ideas.

Gertrude Stein's Gertrude Stein has been internationally acclaimed, and was featured at the Edinburgh Festival in Dublin, Adelaide, Avignon, the York Festival, and in Asia.

Concluding the performance was The Woman in Gertrude Stein — observations by Kay Armatage. Armatage co-ordinates the women's studies and independent studies programmes at Innes College, University of Toronto.

Thornton Wilder, on the occasion of Nancy Cole's presentation of Homage à Gertrude Stein in Paris, observed, "The recognition of Gertrude Stein's genius as an artist and as a philosopher concerned with the nature of creativity lies in the future... The day is not far off when Gertrude Stein's insights will be acknowledged as one of the greatest achievements of the century."

RIVKA BAR YOSEF

speaking on

WOMEN IN ISRAEL

TODAY, ROOM S174 ROSS

JSF PROGRAMME MEETING SUNDAY, MARCH 9

For all those interested in talking about this year's past programmes, and planning for next year's.

For details please call Nicki at 481-5959

JSF STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 10

Room S101 Ross
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL

ECOLE FRANCAISE D'ETE 1975

July 2nd — August 8th

In the largest French-speaking university on the continent you LEARN FRENCH WHERE FRENCH IS AT HOME.

METHODS: The latest audio-visual methods are used with beginners; advanced students work in seminars.

ADVANCED LEVEL: Special attention is given to English-speaking teachers of French; to students of French literature and to people wishing to know more about Quebec.

LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS: Rooms are available in campus residences for male and female students.

ACTIVITIES: French-Canadian life discovered through folk-singing evenings, the theatre, excursions into the typical Quebec, countryside strolls and sightseeing through historic old Montreal. Sports activities available.

BURSARIES: L'Université de Montréal has been selected as a participating institution in the Federal-Provincial bursary program for Canadian students who wish to learn French as a second language.

Booklet on request:

Ecole française d'été

SERVICE D'EDUCATION
PERMANENTE

C.P. 6128, Montréal 101, Québec, CANADA