

**"An awful lot is up to us"**

# Canadian women fight for peace

by Emma Sadgrove

The role of women in bringing about peace was addressed Oct. 17 at a forum held by the Women's Program at the University of Alberta.

The film *Speaking Our Peace* featured several women who have committed their lives to the fight for peace.

Muriel Duckworth, a founding member of the Voice of Women (VOW), emphasized the need for ordinary citizens to become involved.

"It's the people with no extraordinary power who will reconstitute the world, if it is going to be saved," she said.

Footage included Duckworth's trip to Russia in which she talked with Soviet women about working for peace.

Ottawa Mayor Marian Dewar was also interviewed and spoke strongly on the role of women in achieving peace.

"I do think that there are issues that we as women have to focus on. If we don't, the rest of the world isn't going to and, God knows, the rest of our country isn't going to. An awful lot is up to us," Dewar said.

Scenes of women demonstrating for peace and of ordinary people whose lifestyles are bound by the nuclear age left members of the audience noticeably affected and drew attention to the need for change.

The film was followed by a speaker, Solanges Vincent, an economist who was interviewed in the film.

Vincent spoke of the growing militarization in Canada and around the world. "To me it has very frightening implications," she said.

Vincent also said that "Canada is pushing military production in alliance with the Pentagon." This

"ties us to American institutions."

"Business leaders love the high tech militarization and pressure the government for more," she said. "High interest rates do not have an effect on high tech companies because they are not producing for consumer markets."

"Military spending does not help the economy as a whole," Vincent said. Yet, "money is poured into military and taken away from civilian use."

Vincent drew the connection that "women experience daily the deterioration of their living conditions because of cutbacks in the social system in order to finance the war machine."

She stressed the importance of women taking their part in the struggle for peace and justice, which she says takes "determination, perseverance and courage."

The event marked 1986 being International Year of Peace as declared by the United Nations.

As Ursula Franklin, a physicist and member of VOW, says in the film about peace: "It's neither painless, nor is it cheap, nor is it fast, but it's the only thing we have."



Economist Solanges Vincent speaking at forum.

photo Rob Schmidt

**"Men...feel pretty threatened in a group that is nine-tenths women."**

## Assistance for single men

by John Watson

A program intended to help recently single men survive is being run by Terry Conroy of Edmonton Social Services.

The program is for men who have recently broken up from some type of relationship: marriage, common-law, or boyfriend — girlfriend.

It tries to teach them that "they really are decent, okay human beings," said Conroy.

Conroy, who runs this program

in addition to having a full counselling case-load, says "there is no other (program) like it in town."

There are a number of programs set up to help both men and women, but Conroy's deals exclusively with men.

"Men just do not take advantage or reach out to the social services offered in the community," he said, "they feel pretty threatened in a group that is nine-tenths women."

Conroy even has difficulty convincing men to attend his men only

seminars.

"A lot of fellows say right at the beginning, 'Yes, I have those needs, but I'm not ready for it,' that means they're scared," he said.

Out of almost a dozen confirmed to attend the next session (which begins at the end of this month), Conroy expects about six or eight to show up.

The men "must learn how to be single again, learn how to survive it," Conroy said. They must learn how to deal with their hurt and

anger.

Participants in the past have ranged in ages from about 20 to 65.

Conroy, who graduated from the U of A and went to the University of Manitoba for his masters of social work, runs a couple of sessions each year.

The sessions are conducted out of the Duggan Centre, 5005 - 108A Street. There is no cost.

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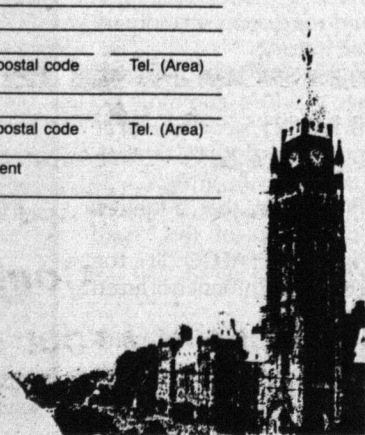
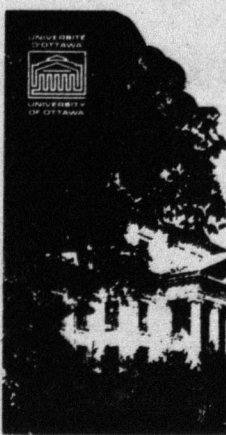
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### Correction

In the Wed. Oct. 15 edition, *The Gateway* incorrectly referred to Rev. Steve Larson of the Chaplains' Assoc.

as Rev. Steve Watson. We apologize for any inconvenience or embarrassment this may have caused.

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