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KAMPUS KRONIKLES

By ZENA KAMOOCKI

Women blast man's oldest profession

by Mark Brzustowski
 Imprint staff

An alternative to the "dominant blueprint for human existence" is needed if our species is to survive because society, now structured to make war inevitable, "values attributes of humankind that lead to combat." This new vision, the theme of a talk given by Hildi Froese Tiessen of Conrad Grebel's English Department, concerns women and peace.

The history of feminism and pacifism often goes hand-in-hand, explained Froese Tiessen. Soon after the outbreak of World War I, European women met in the Hague and passed resolutions demanding a mediated end to the conflict, democratic control of foreign policy, women's voice in the peace, and disarmament, in short, "ending man's oldest profession." War, "a male dominated institution," would no longer be accepted, at least by feminists.

Reading from women and men's poetry, she illustrated the domination of the patriarchy, the "power of the fathers," over society, the ultimate expression of which is war. The patriarchy, with its stranglehold on ownership, law, labour, custom and education, survives by shaming less powerful males into complicity and consent. In the end men are as much victims as women: the patriarchy's leaders do not fight the wars themselves.

Froese Tiessen also spoke of the need to "steal the language" and end the patriarchy's monopoly on the power of definition. Control over language is necessary not only to end the definition of women in passive, negative and "lacking terms," but to give peace a new vocabulary. The names assigned to times of peace, she explained, such as pre-war, inter-war, post-war and cold-war suggest "tacitly imply that war is normative." In the same way, non-violence implies violence is the norm.

But running counter to the norm, an activity not much appreciated by the fathers, incurs the power of their propaganda. Such an attack on non-conformity prompted Margaret Laurence, interviewed in "Speaking Our Peace" to say this: "If peace is subversive, God's name what is war?"

Because the patriarchy confirms men in social, political and economic dominance, women, as outsiders, are best suited to offer a new world view, an approach based on an equally real and valid, though non-traditional frame of reference. Said Froese Tiessen, the "patriarchy must be replaced by alternate visions."

Imprint,
 University of Waterloo,
 March 4, 1988.

Peterson to ban by-laws

by David Kilgour
 of The Gazette

Students across the province scored a major victory against several cities' discriminatory housing bylaws when Premier David Peterson unexpectedly announced at Western Monday that his government is planning to ban the bylaws.

Peterson said his government is working on legislation that will override municipal bylaws which limit the number of unrelated people allowed to live in a single dwelling. He told reporters after his speech the legislation could be ready before Queen's Park breaks for the summer.

He said the discriminatory bylaws make it difficult for students looking for affordable housing in an already tight market. "The student housing issue is a serious one, not just in London but across the province and we're looking at various options to make sure we take advantage of existing housing stock."

Paul Davidson, VP-external affairs University Students' Council, asked Peterson to either support a private member's bill currently before the Legislature that would ban such bylaws or draft a new one.

The private member's bill, sponsored by Progressive Conservative Cam Jackson, simply calls for the elimination of discriminatory zoning bylaws.

But Peterson said his solution would better address the zoning problem, adding that private member's bills "often miss the issue."

London city council passed the bylaw last April in response to citizen complaints against unkept student homes and rowdy behavior. Similar bylaws are enforced in Kingston, Waterloo, Kitchener and Sudbury.

Davidson said later he was surprised by the Premier's apparent off-the-cuff response but remains "cautiously optimistic" the government will pass legislation to ban the municipal bylaws.

He said 300 homes in London are affected by the city's bylaw.

In questioning Peterson, Davidson pointed out the premier had said during the election last year that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs was opposed to the zoning bylaws.

Davidson credited the lobbying efforts of several student councils and the Ontario Federation of Students for prompting action on the bylaw issue, but said the work for student leader is not over.

"This is no time to lay down and bask in the success. We have to carry out our lobbying efforts to put the icing on the cake."

The Gazette,
 University of Western Ontario,
 March 4, 1988



Imprint, University of Waterloo, February 26, 1988.