

**Centre to discuss family law**

# Women's centre gives York feminist face

By JAMES BRENNAN

Since its inception during the summer of 1975, the York Women's Centre has become one of the most forceful proponents of the women's movement at York. Describing itself as a centre for information and activities pertaining to women, the Women's Centre functions both as a referral agency, directing individuals to services off and on campus, and as a public education organization, devising lecture series and conferences.

The women's centre has no constitution and is not geared to any specific constituency within the university. As an evolving organization, primarily responsive to the needs of women, the Centre maintains active files on "women and art", "housework" and "Men's Liberation".

Until this week the women's centre has been run by a totally volunteer staff composed of students staff and faculty working as a collective. A full time coordinator is to be appointed this week to oversee daily operations of the centre and to provide more continuity.

Ursula Daniels of the women's

centre told Excalibur, "The women's centre is a place for feminists to collaborate and get some work done. The centre is unique in terms of students, staff and faculty working together so successfully. It is an excellent training ground for feminists."

At present, the centre has a mailing list of four to five hundred people around Toronto and maintains communication with women's groups around the world. It is rapidly becoming the public

face of York in relation to women's issues and is planning to set up a speaker's bureau in the future.

As a referral agency, the women's centre offers information on matters both academic and non-academic within the university, directing enquirers to assistance in housing, legal matters, and psychological, political and financial concerns. In addition to supplying materials about women's studies, of which Atkinson offers a degree programme, the

centre directs individuals to other women's groups at York.

Among these is the women's workshop which conducts consciousness-raising and women's assertiveness training groups and offers personal feminist counselling. Other groups on campus, to which the women's centre frequently refers people, include the resource centre for women's studies at Stong, which houses research materials, the Osgoode Women's Caucus and the Women's Resource Centre which is primarily directed towards business students.

Last year the women's centre sponsored a performance by Theatre Passe Muraille of "Operation Finger Pinky" in Burton Auditorium, and the eminently successful three-day conference "Women Working", which featured Dr. Henry Morgentaler. Other well-attended events included a seminar on "Women and Aging" and sponsorship of lectures by two well-known feminist analysts, Selma James and Margaret Randall.

This year, the women's centre is hoping to hold a panel discussion on

Family Law Reform. On January 27 the centre, in collaboration with Harbinger and the Women's Workshop, is showing the documentary on rape, "It's not a pretty picture", and on February 3 it is sponsoring "Wimmin's Words", a poetry reading by the Women's Writing Collective.

With regard to current operations, Daniels pointed out: "The more people that get involved in the Centre, the more activities we can sponsor. We're working with very little money, so need all the help we can get. Last year's CYSF was generous and we were able to accomplish quite a lot. This year we need even more people involved."



Ursula Daniels, volunteer staffer at Women's Centre.

## Rabinovitch resigns from 'Edson team'

By LIBBY ST. JEAN

Shelley Rabinovitch, a non-executive member of CYSF, announced she was no longer a part of 'Edson team', Monday.

"I wanted to make it unequivocally clear that I vote the way I want," Rabinovitch also said, "the differences between myself and the 'loose coalition' associated with Edson are becoming evident outside the group — that's all."

Barry Edson, CYSF president, denied the existence of an 'Edson team' since last May. "The only reason we put a slate together was to become the heirs to Dale Ritch's throne."

Edson added, "Shelley still shares our basic principles but acts as an independant member of council."

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