

drop everything

• **THE NORTH YORK WOMEN'S CENTRE** offers a variety of learning programs throughout the fall • **English Language Classes** begin September 9, every Monday and Wednesday from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. This program is free • **Wen-Do** - a popular self-defence course teaches women to be aware of potentially dangerous situations and how to respond to them. The course runs every Monday, starting September 16 for 6 weeks. There is a fee of \$56.25 for residents of Metro Toronto. • **Menopause Wellness** courses lead women in group discussions concerning the physical and emotional effects of menopause. The program has two meeting times, September 23 and 30, from 7:30 to 9:30pm. There is a registration fee of \$5.00 • **Assertiveness Training** - learn how to communicate effectively with those around you in this six week course. Classes begin September 25 from 7:30 to 9:30pm. There is a registration fee of \$15.00 for residents of Metro Toronto • For more information about these and other programs, please contact **Wendy Fraser** at the North York Women's Centre, 781-0479

• **The Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (I.V.C.F.)** offers a welcome supper for international students. Only \$2. **Wednesday, September 11, 6pm.** Winter's College Senior Common Room. Everyone Welcome!

• **THE STUDENT PEER SUPPORT CENTRE** needs volunteers for peer counselling. If interested in volunteering, please call the coordinator, **Lee Mendelsohn**, at 736-5494

• **THE BISEXUAL, LESBIAN AND GAY ALLIANCE (BLGAY)** is holding its first meeting on **Thursday, September 19 at 5:00pm** in 307 Student Centre.

• **THE AFRICAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION OF YORK UNIVERSITY (ASA)** is holding its first General Meeting of the year in the Council Chamber, 313 Student Centre at 4:00pm on **September 5, 1991** • ASA is holding its Annual Picnic on **September 7** from 11:00am to 5:00pm behind 22 Moon Road • For more information call 736-2100 ext. 20435.

• **STUDENTS FOR THE EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SPACE (S.E.D.S.)** would like to announce the grand opening of our new office in the Student Centre. Beginning **August 27**, our office, room 308, will be staffed, and we would like to invite all returning members and those interested to visit our office. • S.E.D.S. would like to announce their participation in the **Star Trek 25th Anniversary Gala**, to be held on **September 8** in Nathan Phillips Square.

Students discover feminism

EH: That's why I'm in a student government. It's definitely not a safe place to be a woman let alone an 'out' lesbian. I anticipate attacks from all over.

EC: I don't think it's debates and disagreements. It's an ongoing process where we are challenging all the things we were brought up to think.

EH: One of the things I've discovered is that we sometimes reach a burn-out point. You get so strained and stressed from fighting for your rights, you become frustrated.

It naturally follows that we bring our feminism with us wherever we go, which includes the classroom. This too can be a source of frustration, especially with the prevalence of anti-feminism.

FM: We live in a society where if you are concerned about women being raped you're some kind of radical party-pooper.

EH: When studies have shown that one in eight women in post-secondary education will be raped, we know that these are really valid concerns.

FM: We get defensive when someone asks "So what's women's studies?" We're so used to being attacked.

In English class we'd talk about a novel and the T.A. would motion toward me and say "...and we have the feminist perspective..." making it my responsibility to provide a feminist analysis. I think teaching assistants should be doing more of this work themselves.

I don't even say I'm in women's studies anymore, I say I'm in English... but the great thing about women's studies is that you're not the only feminist in the room.

JP: But that's why I decided against the graduate women's studies program — it's so safe to put a whole pile of people with 'subversive' ideas in a little corner and say, okay, we've gotten rid of you now, have your degree program and shut up. I want to be in a place where yes, I'm going to have people throwing stones at me but I know I'm strong enough that it won't bother me because I might influence one or two other people in my class.



Despite the obstacles that we have to overcome both inside and outside the feminist movement, we all agree there is no going back. Being able to put all of what we have always felt into a framework and giving it a name has provided us with strength and empowerment. It has also enabled us to work toward change instead of having to forgive and excuse the violence, the discrimination and the disempowerment women are forced to confront globally.

EH: I think there are women who are looking for feminism but haven't found it. What we need to do is give women the tools to come to their own understanding of feminism. That is what the Women's Centre has the potential to do. We have to give women the tools. And we will find some commonality, despite our diversity.

drop everything

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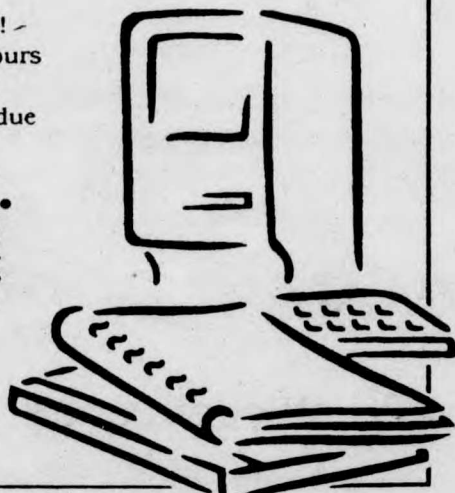
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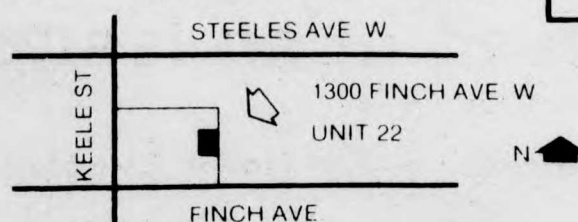
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