

## St. Lawrence Centre comedies poke fun at female stereotypes

By BILL GLADSTONE

The St. Lawrence Centre opened their new season last week with a double Canadian bill, Surprise! Surprise! by Michel Tremblay, and Shelter, by Carol Bolt, both comedies, and both dealing with women.

Surprise! Surprise! is a light one-act play concerning the humourous misadventures of Laurette and Jeanine, two Montreal women who attempt to plan a surprise party over the phone for their friend Madeleine, and who manage to perpetually bungle each stage of their preparations.

Shelter is, as the general director of the St. Lawrence Centre puts it, the Centre's contribution to International Women's Year. The play deals with the conflicts faced by a group of women fighting stereotyped social roles.

Jory, the widow of a south Saskatchewan member of parliament, played to nearperfection by Jane Eastwood, decides immediately after her husband's funeral to run for the parliamentary seat he has left vacant.

She is surrounded by four other women during her campaign, each with her own different idea of how to run it. Aunt Luel, despite her "degree in English and psychology", is the most backward and old-fashioned character of the lot.

The others working on the campaign are more concerned with approaching the people and addressing the issues, but the only reactions to Jory's campaign are obscene phone calls, and the only issues that are deemed relevant are "freight rates" and the winter works program. The amazing thing is that Jory wins.

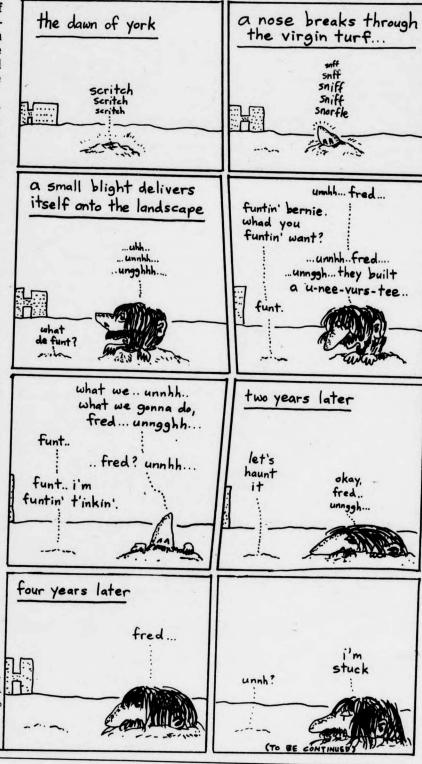
None of the women in the play, except perhaps Jory, seems capable of withstanding the internal crisis that occurs when her personality each in its turn, contradicts the social stereotype. Unable to reconcile the two, they must either sacrifice their identities, or else seek shelter from the severe stress of this conflict.

The strength of the play lies not so much in its theme as in its humour. Shelter is much more a

comedy than a drama, and its in general. well-timed dialogue and biting Well dire Canadianisms mock traditional female stereotypes as well as the lethargic state of Canadian society

Well directed and well acted, Surprise! Surprise! and Shelter will be performed at the St. Lawrence Centre until November 8.

## Legend of Fred and Bernie



## New STiMULA<sub>®</sub>-a superior contraceptive designed for a man... with a woman in mind

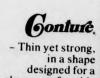
Stimula® is different. Stimula's delicately textured surface offers a difference we think you'll both appreciate. Stimula . . . a new and unique experience in sensitivity, and protection. Buy it and try it.





Fill in this coupon, tape 25c below for handling and mail it to us. We'll send you a trial package of Stimula together with our informative booklet on family planning, 'Let's be practical about the condom' STIMULA NAME: TRIAL ADDRESS: 25c OFFER Mail to: Searle Pharmaceuticals, Oakville, Ontario L6H 1M5





close, comfortable



Prime - Sensitivity and strength 'traditional' shape



Each condom lubricated with a satiny, 'dry" lubricant. Each electronically tested to assure the highest quality. Look for them on display at your drugstore, or ask your pharmacist for further information.

