

To protest government inaction...

Women's Action Day

by Elizabeth Hnatsyshyn
 Women's Programme Centre
 Saturday, October 25,
 1975 has been declared by the
 United Nations as 'International
 Women's Day of International
 Women's Year.'

The position taken by the
 Women's Action Day committee
 is that in Canada, the federal
 government has misspent \$5
 million in 1975 on the slick
 'Why Not?' advertising cam-
 paign and on useless con-
 ferences. At the same time, the
 government has remained inac-
 tive on many pressing issues
 faced by women. Women
 across the country have
 demonstrated outright anger
 concerning the continuing im-
 prisonment of Dr. Morgentaler,
 the inhumane anti-abortion law,
 inadequate child care facilities,
 and the underpayment of
 women workers. They feel that
 women are more and more
 realizing that if they are to gain
 their full social and economic
 emancipation, they must
 organize and jointly pursue
 their goals.

In Edmonton, various
 women's organizations have
 united to present a half-day
 seminar event on October 25,
 which they have renamed
 Women's Action Day.

The event will open in Rm.
 TL-11, Tory Building at 12
 noon with a rally of speakers.
 This will be followed by two
 sessions of workshops to be
 held in adjoining classrooms.
 The 8 separate workshops will
 deal with the following issues:
 1) working women and equal
 pay for work of equal value, 2)
 child care, 3) abortion and
 contraception, 4) women and
 the law, 5) the status of women
 in education, 6) gay women, 7)
 rape, and 8) Native women.

The purpose of the
 workshops will be to discuss
 and resolve what actions are
 required in each of the discuss-
 ed areas - for example the
 specific legislation that is re-
 quired, or the type of issue-
 oriented group that is necessary
 to organize women further on
 the issue. Each workshop will
 report on its findings and
 resolutions to the reconvened
 general meeting for approval of
 the meeting as a whole. It is
 intended that the action will
 inform women of organizations

that they can join and suggest
 activities in which they can
 involve themselves in order to
 effect the changes that they feel
 are vital for the full realization of
 their rights.

The idea of Women's Action
 Day was first conceived by
 some activists of Edmonton
 Women's Place, and in the past
 weeks, has developed to involve
 the U of A Women's Programme
 Centre, the Day Care Council of
 Edmonton, CARAL (Canadian
 Association for Repeal of the
 Abortion Law), women of the
 Gay Alliance Toward Equality,
 and other women's groups, as
 well as a number of political
 groups and trade union
 organizations.

At its October 20 meeting,
 the U of A students' council
 gave full endorsement to
 Women's Action Day, and in

particular, to Women's
 Programme Centre's workshop
 dealing with women in educa-
 tion. The students' council also
 voted to provide \$100 to meet
 part of the cost of the event.

Various of the participating
 groups will display, hand out,
 and sell relevant literature and
 other items at Saturday's action.

A child care service will be
 provided for those who bring
 young children.

An even social is also
 planned, and details will be
 announced at the action.

The day's events are all
 persons interested in protesting
 government inaction on
 women's rights and wishing to
 mobilize around these issues,
 as well as to all those individuals
 who simply want to learn more
 about women's movement.

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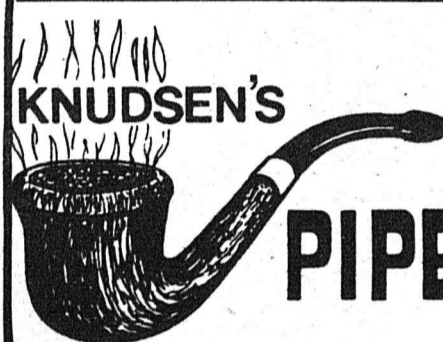
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