



Over 170 feminists rallied at Churchill Square Saturday for International Women's Day.

# Chauvinism in U.S.S.R.

by Peter Michalyszyn

Women in the Western World have a more profound awareness of themselves and issues concerning them, compared to their counterparts in the Soviet Union, according to Soviet feminist dissident Tatyana Mamonova.

Even though women in the USSR are told constantly by the state that the "Soviet woman is the happiest woman in the world," quite the opposite is true, said Mamonova Saturday.

She led a march by over 150 women and men to a rally in Churchill Square Saturday afternoon, and spoke to 400 at a forum that evening on part of a cross-Canada tour.

"In the Soviet Union women are encouraged to think they have already achieved equality," Mamonova said.

"We live in such a hypocritical society. Constantly on the radio they (the government) are hammering at us that we're living in the most perfect society," she said. "It is very difficult to form one's own opinions."

On March 8 1979 - International Women's Day - 20 Leningrad women began to express their opinions by starting the feminist movement in the USSR. In December 1979 the first issue of *Almanach*, a political and cultural feminist magazine, was published to coincide with the

Declaration of Human Rights.

Feminists have received little support from the traditional dissident elite which has never considered the psychic needs of women in the dissident movement, according to Mamonova.

"Though they like to think of themselves as non-conformists, my impression is when it comes to relations with women they are extremely conformist."

However, a few men, such as her husband who Mamonova calls a "true feminist," have offered their support.

"I think it's just as hard for men in the Soviet Union to express their support for feminism as it is for women."

Following the state's insistence that all is well, there is officially no pornography or homosexuality in the Soviet Union.

Mamonova said, however, the verbal pornography is worse than anywhere else. "As soon as a woman leaves her house she starts hearing it - deeply insulting, offensive language to women and it's spreading like wildfire."

And she calls rape the most widespread crime in the Soviet Union. Only about one per cent of rape victims - only the victims of the most violent - report to authorities.

"There is also the unwritten law that when women are raped the fault is their own and they don't report it."

## State slows feminists

In May 1980, Tatyana Mamonova, a 36-year-old painter and poet, was arrested and given 24 hours to leave the Soviet Union or face charges for publishing "tendentiously ideological" material.

Today, she considers herself lucky. Her successor to the editorship of *Almanach*, a feminist magazine of political and cultural writings, was jailed. Mamonova says she escaped this fate because she was well-known outside the USSR.

At first the KGB practiced

"subtle forms of intimidation" but when that didn't work, they went to searches and arrests to stop publications, confiscating typewriters from homes where copies of *Almanach* were secretly copied and passed on, according to Mamonova.

"You must not only be very strong but you must also stand the risk of imprisonment for your feminist views," she said.

Mamonova continues to support the feminist movement in the USSR from her home in Paris. She sends information and

provides moral support for the beleaguered women, the same kind of support that Mamonova says gave her the courage to defy the state and publish *Almanach*.

While in Edmonton last weekend, Mamonova encouraged feminists to join their sisters internationally.

"We need an international feminist union," she said, to combat sexism effectively.

"I consider that all women are the exploited proletariat of all time."

*Planning process in 'fast track'.*

## Garneau plans may be rubber stamped

The U of A's top two decision makers made cautious statements about North Garneau redevelopment Friday but neither would comment on the contents of proposals now being generated by university planners.

Board of Governors chairperson John Schlosser and university president Myer Horowitz said at Friday's regular Board meeting that they would not comment on specific proposals until they are presented

to the Board in April.

However, they disagreed in interviews after the meeting about what will be the consequences if the Board rejects the proposal it sees in April. The university wants new housing completed in time for the 1983 World University Games, and is on a "fast track" planning process to make sure it is ready in time.

Schlosser said, "The Board is the final authority... they can do anything they want." But he

would not comment further about whether or not this would mean the housing would not be finished by summer 1983.

Horowitz, however, said, "A major implication of a negative decision on April 20 is probably that there wouldn't be new housing for the World University Games," in summer 1983.

Nonetheless, he said, he would not let pressure for the Games' housing dictate his vote.

"If the proposal is not acceptable, and if the implication of turning it down is not having housing in time for the Games, then that's too bad," Horowitz said.

But Students' Union president Nolan Astley, who sits on the Board, said earlier that he would be surprised if the Board turned down any proposal in April.

"It's no secret that the Board hasn't turned down any recommendation of the administration in years," he said. "My personal fear is that it's too late now."

Astley went on to question the university's future academic need for rooms in North Garneau.

"I think we've got about as many students here as we're going to have," he said. He cited provincial government plans to expand the smaller institutions rather than the U of A: "They're going to expand NAIT, they're

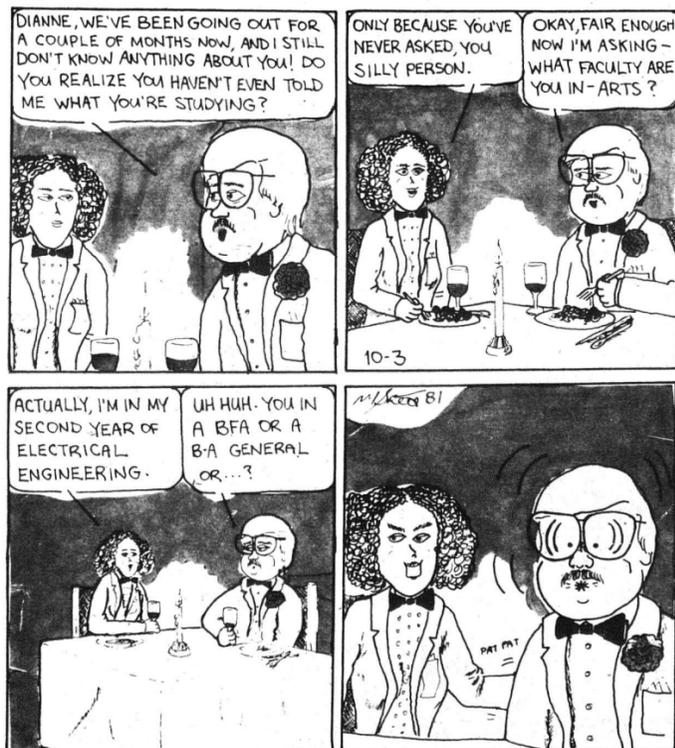
expanding the University of Lethbridge, they build a residence in Grande Prairie, but our Business and Commerce building has been on hold for 10 years."

Moreover, he said, there is plenty of room on campus for any planned new buildings in the next 10 to 15 years, even though there is a pressing need for more student housing.

He suggested one reason for the university's insistence on keeping an academic reserve in North Garneau is "a competition between this university and the U of C" at the Board of Governors.

In addition, he said, there is "a certain amount of 'bigger is better' thinking among administrators and Board members."

### Baz by Skeet



### Squibs

by Spike Milligram

Notes on venereal disease, by H.L. Mencken, 1926:

There are devices readily at hand that would if systematically applied, diminish the incidence of (venereal) disease by at least a half. Why are they not employed?

They are not employed simply because their employment, in the opinion of the sex hygienists, would encourage wickedness by making it safe. In other words, they are not employed because the sex hygienists are not really hygienists at all, but really moralists. Their primary desire is not to diminish the venereal diseases; it is to lift the whole youth of the land to the degree of virtue that they advocate. Their horror at the spectacle of hundreds of thousands of young men wrecked by syphilis and gonorrhoea is bogus. I believe in all seriousness that many of them take a positive delight in it - that it is somehow agreeable to their moral minds to see a sinner so ferociously punished. If I am wrong, then why do they oppose so violently every genuinely scientific effort to put down both diseases? Why is their literature so heavy with moral fulminations, and so bare of the news that a simple ointment, applied after exposure, is sufficient to prevent

gonorrhoea and syphilis and if not invariably, then at any rate in 95 cases out of a hundred?

Follow up by Lenny Bruce, from *How to Talk Dirty and Influence People*, 1966:

When the guy comes to your door for the Community Chest or the United Fund, do you ever say to him, "Hey, wait a minute. I'm gonna give you a donation, but how much of my buck is going to the clap? And actually, it's way up there on the charts. Or are you like a lot of subintellectuals who would say, "Well, no, I wouldn't ask about the clap because only bums get it. And Communists." Sure, 7,000,000 war heroes that are bums and Communists."

You can talk about leukemia all day long, because there's no specific cure, but the clap you could whack it out in two days with all the antibiotics, so how come it's there and stays up there? Don't even say the word clap, man. "It's all right, Mrs. Sheckner, you've just got a little discharge." Because you get leukemia in a respectable way. But how do you get the clap? By doing it, and anybody who does that dirty thing obviously deserves to get the clap.