

## WOMEN UNITE!



### Do you know that:

- although women constitute 51% of the population of Canada, Canadian women have only **one** woman representative in the federal Parliament?
  - between 1917 and June 1970 there have been 134 federal and provincial elections and of 6,845 people elected only 67 were women--that is under 1%?
  - only 2.4% (18 women) of all successful candidates in the last 15 federal elections (1921-1968) have been women?
  - Canadian women are interested in politics, and according to the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada, 84.2% of the women in Canada voted in the last federal election as compared to 86.8% of the men?
  - on April 24, 1928 the Supreme Court of Canada decided that the term "persons" did not include women, and women therefore could not be appointed to the Senate, but although the decision was over-ruled by the Privy Council in 1929, from 1930 to 1970 only 8 out of 227 Senators have been women and as of January 1970 only four of 102 were women?
  - no woman has ever been appointed to the Supreme Court and of 889 judges only 14 were women (1969 figures) and only **one** was a member of a superior court?
  - only **one** federal government department (the Economic Council of Canada) has a woman as deputy minister?
  - of 10 parliamentary interns hired in 1970 only **one** was a woman?
  - the NDP has no separate women's organization, but still women do the stamp-licking and coffee-making and leave the important decisions to the men?
  - the Liberals and Conservatives do have women's auxiliary associations and even after passing the resolution that **one** delegate from each constituency must be a woman, only 16.5% of the Conservative delegates who attended the 1967 convention were women and 15.3% at the Liberal convention in 1968?
  - in the 1968 federal election out of 34 women candidates 21 were NDP, 7 independent, 5 Conservative and only **one** Liberal?
  - if you are a politically ambitious woman it is advantageous to be the widow of a former Member of Parliament (6 of 18 were) in order to get nominated and then elected to the House of Commons?
  - the 18 successful women federal candidates report that it was more difficult for them to get the nomination in their constituencies than it was to get elected?
  - according to the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women the majority of men and women consider it unsuitable for women to leave their children to become MP's or MLA's, but think it entirely suitable for men to do so?
  - the law governing abortion, an issue of extreme concern to women, was "reformed" by 263 men and only **one** woman?
- Is it possible that if there were more than **one** (and aiming for 50%) woman Member of Parliament the government would support such programmes as equal pay for equal work, public day care centres, and real abortion reform?
- Do you care?  
If you do care, come to the DAY IN SEPTEMBER which is being held in the SUB on Sunday, September 24 at 2:00, register in the Women's Program, and keep the evening of February 20 free to attend a forum on Women in Politics.

# The day in September

## Feminists publish newspaper

"The Day in September," a full day of events focusing attention on the women's movement in Edmonton, is planned for this Sunday, September 24, by the Women's Program Centre.

Enrollment for a year-long series of discussion and study groups on women's present role in society will also begin on Sunday.

On the agenda for the day will be three actors in the SUB theatre portraying roles that women are forced to play in modern society, followed by comments by a panel. Four members of the Edmonton Symphony will appear as a quartet; poetry readings of works written by women will be held and work by major women artists in the city will be displayed in the SUB art gallery.

Representatives of various women's groups will lead discussions in the SUB meditation room.

Free child care by qualified child care people will be provided on Sunday and on each night that the courses scheduled.

Courses will meet every Tuesday night, beginning on September 26. They will cover a diverse range of topics which deal with women's role in society and will consist of both study groups and "rap" groups for each topic in order that the participant may choose which type of group would be more beneficial to her. Enrollment fee for the year's course is \$2.

The WPC rose last year out of the ashes of the Wauneita Society, a women's organization which had existed on campus

since 1910. Women who came to be interested in the movement through the January Women's Week joined forces with the remnants of Wauneita to form the WPC, which was established under a students' union by-law in March.

A board of directors consisting of two graduate students, two undergraduate students, two faculty members, two members of the community, and a representative of the dean of women's office provides advice and approval for WPC proposals.

The day-to-day functioning of the group is supervised by co-directors. Appointed to the posts at last Thursday's meeting of the SU administration board were Sharon Stevenson and Katerina Edwards. jc

## Feminists publish newspaper

"On Our Way" is Edmonton's first feminist newspaper. It is a vehicle of expression - an opportunity for women to be heard.

By recounting personal experiences, the paper shows how the often abstract issues of the feminist movement DO affect all women.

The traditional female/male roles, the sexist literature and advertising, the economic discrimination and lack of opportunity for change (i.e. without day care centres many women can't change their traditional roles) all limit the ability of women to reach their potential. Unfortunately, many people don't understand this viewpoint at all. Therefore, "On Our Way" hopes to raise the consciousness level of women - to show that women are oppressed in all these and in many more ways.

To provide a positive direction for women, the paper includes information about the groups and activities in Edmonton which offer alternatives for women. There have been articles on sexist literature, with control associations, consciousness-raising groups and book and movie reviews to supplement the actual dates, times, and places.

The third edition will be centered around the federal election. The platforms of parties and individuals will be presented along with 'regular' articles.

Although "On Our Way" is for women, about women, by women, the staff members are not man-haters. However, articles written by men will not be published at this time (if ever). This policy is designed to allow women the chance to gain confidence in their abilities; to allow them to realize that there is a publication specifically for women and to discourage the attitude that without male participation, a venture is doomed to failure.

"On Our Way" was created in the belief that there was a need for a feminist newspaper in Edmonton. While there have been some reactions

of "You must be kidding!", the overall response has been favourable. There've been a number of long discussions and letters from people offering articles, suggestions and encouragement.

"On Our Way" is published by a collective editorship - staff. The staff had originally planned to distribute the paper free of charge.

After considering the limited amount of non-sexist advertising available, it was decided to charge 10 cents per

copy. The revenue collected has also made it clear that there was a desire for this type of paper.

The women involved, at this time, range from students to workers to housewives to mothers to spinsters and every combination thereof. However, this paper is for ALL women. Those interested in helping or who would like to talk, phone DeLoras (465-4986), Cathy (433-2042), FUN office (488-3710) or write to 9137-81 Avenue.

