

## 75th Women's Day march attracts 9,000 to Eaton's protest

By REMA SINGH

About 9,000 people marched in the name of peace, sexual equality, and the freedom of choice on the abortion issue last Saturday, the 75th anniversary of International Women's Day.

The march, which began at Convocation Hall, stopped traffic on its way to the Eaton's Centre where an estimated 3,000 protesters crowded into the store chanting "Boycott Eaton's," and "Contract now."

After half an hour of Eaton's pro-

testing, the march continued to its ultimate destination at the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, where singers and speakers celebrated International Women's Day with the crowd until 7 p.m.

"We can work together for the rights of women," said speaker Laurie Bell of the March 8 Coalition, a group formed in 1978 to organize Women's Day and commemorate the first celebrations. Bell discussed various topics dealing with the Eaton's strikers, the pro-choice

movement, Action Day Care, the Anti-Intervention Coalition and immigrant women.

Almost 80 percent of the workers in Eaton's are women, "women who have been deprived of economic rights in the workforce," said Bell. "Eaton's continues to exploits their workers."

Speaking on behalf of the Eaton's strikers, Maria Cabelli said, "We are fighting for justice against against T. Eaton. Women today are finally being recognized as having the right to be heard." The workers want fair-

ness, acceptance, security, and all in all better job benefits, she said.

Bell talked about repealing abortion laws to give women the freedom to exercise their choice," she said. "It is our legal right to have safe and legal abortions at our choice," demanded Bell.

Instead of spending money on luxuries, such as the Dome Stadium, Bell said, it should be used to provide services for the homeless, the battered, and day care. "Homes not domes," chanted the crowd.

"Immigrant women are deprived of their dignity and their wages," Bell said. "Colored women are devalued and exploited in a white-dominated society." The Immigrant Women's Community organize classes, workshops, and training services for those who seek work.

"We are sisters, mothers, lovers, and teachers," Bell concluded. "We are black, brown, and white. We have known violence but we are healers. We have the strength to bring life to this world."



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