

Women's Day March

by Paul Clark

Nova Scotia women will be marching through the streets of Halifax this Saturday, protesting government attitudes which have allegedly placed women "under siege".

The march, which will also celebrate International Women's Day, is being organized by the International Women's Day Committee which represents a number of local groups including the Nova Scotia Women's Action Committee, the Dalhousie Women's Faculty Association, A Woman's Place and the International Socialists.

The march is scheduled to begin at 12 noon at Victoria Park and end up at the Court House where a mock court will place the government "on trial" for their neglect of women's rights.

Christine Simmons, a member of the Nova Scotia Women's Action Committee, said the march is intended to

focus both on the general ideals of feminism and specific demands of women in Nova Scotia.

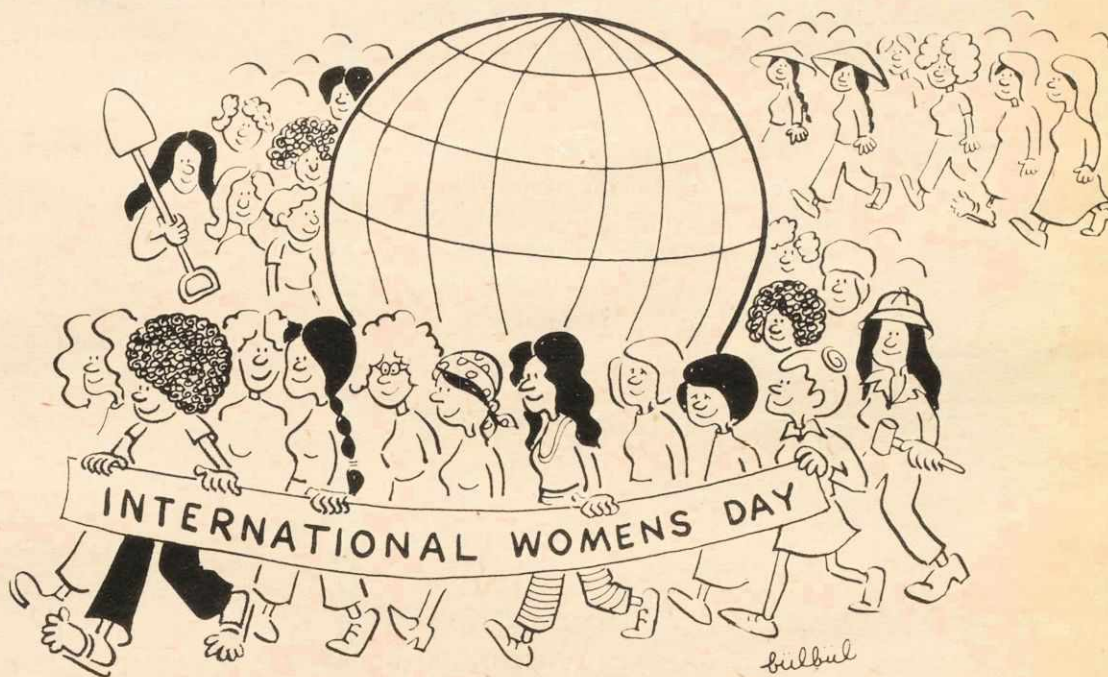
She said social service cut-backs in daycare, welfare payments, and in providing relief services such as Bryony House for battered wives are particular areas of concern.

The government's inaction in providing family law reform and equal employment opportunities are also being protested, she said.

Because the march will occur on a day when the government is not in session, Simmons said members of the Women's Day committee will present a list of their demands to Province House on Friday.

Simmons said she expects similar marches will be occurring in Toronto, Ottawa and cities in Canada and the U.S.

"Children, men and women are all welcome to participate. Everyone's interests are involved", she said.



Task force on stereotyping

Women are portrayed on television and radio as "sexual stupid people only concerned with material goods and television", said Ms. Muriel Duckworth.

She was addressing the Canadian Radio and Television Commission (CRTC) Task Force on Sex Role Stereotyping, which was in Halifax for a one day meeting last month to hear the views of local individuals and groups

on the image of women in television and radio. Speaking on behalf of the Canadian Research Institute for the

Advancement of Women, Ms. Duckworth noted that 83% of all daytime performers and 73% of all prime time per-

formers are men. Their role is an active, expert and dominant one while women play passive, reactive roles.

Leslie Sanson from the YWCA Social Issues Commission cited the Royal Commission Report on the Status of Women in Canada that la-

beled the image of women on television as a "degrading, moronic picture". Among the most offensive commercials a Nova Scotia Human Rights Survey found were the Bounce, Duncan Hines Cake Mix, Whisk, Playtex Eighteen Hour Bra and feminine hygiene ads.

A positive portrayal of men and women, increased leadership opportunities for women in all fields of media and broadcasting and an end to loud, harsh and frequent commercial breaks were among the recommendations the eleven groups made to the CRTC Task Force.



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ing out to others in need is certainly a credit to the students, the medical school and the university.

I would offer a suggestion, for starters, to the engineering society. Why not harness your abundant energies and talents to sponsor a fund raising event with the proceeds going to Bryon House, a house of refuge and protection for battered women, here in the city. They are in desperate need.

Such an extra curricular elective would be a real educative activity, and would make a positive contribution to your own growth and the good of society.

Thank you.

Fr. Joe Hattie, O.M.I.

SUNS has potential

To the Gazette:

I would like to comment on the editorial you had in the last edition of the *Gazette* entitled, "SUNS—pipe-dream?" As a member of the executive for SUNS, I agree with many of the criticisms in your editorial. Certainly one of the biggest problems of SUNS is effectiveness. You noted that many good ideas came

out of the Dal conference but the ideas never seem to turn into actions. This is partly a manpower problem. There are presently only three positions filled on the executive of SUNS, which normally consists of five people. The other two positions are up for elections.

SUNS normally operates on a particular university campus through campus committees. Each campus committee normally consists of the External Affairs Officer of that particular student union, one other member on the student council, and about four or five interested students. Many of the member-institutions don't have fully operating campus committees. The Art College, for instance, has a campus committee consisting of only one person—their External Affairs Officer. Consequently, there aren't enough people in SUNS right now to provide the manpower necessary to make SUNS more effective. You would think that there would be more interest in SUNS by ordinary students since there is a good possibility that our tuition may be going up to \$1000 next year!

One must also remember that SUNS is presently a small organization that was only formed about a year ago, after the old Atlantic Federation of Students broke up. Last year's

budget for the Ontario student's union was something like \$400,000. SUNS's budget for this year was \$800.

SUNS has a lot of potential for growth. Eventually SUNS will be able to set up information programs on such things as Student Aid, tuition, book costs, etc., so that not only will university students in Nova Scotia be better informed, but high school students as well. The lobbying power of SUNS with the Provincial Government will become stronger, as well as with the MPHEC. But all this can only be achieved with more student participation in SUNS.

Anybody can join SUNS. It is not a restricted organization, though I must admit that sometimes we get so caught up in what we're doing that we forget about the average student. But there is room in SUNS for any student who is sick and tired of high tuition and residence costs, decreasing quality in education, or who just has some ideas of his/her own about how things should be. SUNS needs more participation from the average student, because that's who it exists for. And it needs it now.

Sincerely yours,
Wayne Hall,
Secretary-Treasurer,
SUNS

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