

Help Needed To Billet

Women Students

Young women from across Ontario are being invited to a special conference this fall and you can play an important role that will keep costs down by providing a place for one or two to stay in Toronto.

The Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues is holding a youth conference to bring high school aged women (average, 16 years) together to explore some of the realities of female adult life in the 1980's. The conference will be held October 18th to 20th at Monarch Park Secondary School, near Greenwood subway station.

OCSW members can help by providing a place for the out-of-towners to stay — preferably in pairs. We agree with the Council that it would be a real plus for these young women to stay with us and thus have a chance to meet some of the individuals involved in making the societal changes that will benefit them and all women.

Volunteers will be expected to provide sleeping quarters only, but breakfast sure would be nice, too! If you are located on the TTC, that's even better. Remember, October 20th is Person's Day; celebrate by helping these young women.

Call Lee Grills, 488-1486 to

register and/or for more information. And, thanks.

Kudos for OCSW *****

The following was noted on a recent membership renewal form: "May I say that I think your group is doing a fine job. I am interested in everything that would make things better for women -- especially ones that are having a difficult time. Good Luck!" ... Margaret D. Grant. Thanks for your comments and the donation.

Cartoon: from "Common Ground",
volume 4 number 2



"Let's play hospital! I'll be the doctor and you be the patient who makes a total fool of himself by assuming I'm a nurse!"

Sexual Assault Information

Booklets, posters and pamphlets created by the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre are available to all interested individuals now at bulk rates. (all, plus postage and handling)

Let's Talk About Sexual Assault - aimed at women aged 13 - 19; discusses sexuality and relationships; the new law; assertiveness; self defence; prevention and, if assaulted, what to do, where to go and what to expect. Non-threatening approach to the topic. 20 pages; 1-49, \$1.50 ea; 50-99, \$1.40 ea; 100-299 \$1.30 ea; 300-499, \$1.20 ea; 500 up, \$1.00 ea.

Who Do You Trust? - An outstanding, four colour poster designed for children, both educational and preventative; works extremely well as a first step to introducing the topic of child sexual abuse. Seven simple statements, combined with accompanying colour illustrations, enable you to help children learn effective ways of dealing with potentially abusive situations. 1-9, \$1.50 ea; 10-49, \$1.25 ea; 50 & up, \$1.00 ea.

Reservation For One: Women's Guide To Safe Travel - This nationally acclaimed and distributed resource offers tips on: what to do before you leave home; transportation; accommodation; recreation;

assertiveness; physical self defence; and, in case of assault, what you can do.

1-49, \$0.25 ea; 50-199, \$0.23 ea; 200-499, \$0.21 ea; 500 +, \$0.20

Order from Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre, 1045 Linden Avenue, Victoria B.C. V8V 4H3 (Donations above costs receive an official tax receipt.)

Women in Technology

by Louise Kruithof, Faculty, Architectural Division, George Brown College.

Shall we look at the subject very lightly? To do so, I would like to relate to you some incidents which happened to me during the course of a career as a civil/construction engineer. I graduated in engineering at a time when female engineers were almost unheard of. Female engineer on construction, what a thought!

* From the manager of a large construction company: "I never thought I'd see the day when a woman would be establishing levels".

* From a fellow engineer: "I can't discuss the capacity required of a footing with a woman".

* From a carpenter foreman: You must must be very intelligent if you can read blue prints".

* From an equipment rental owner: "I want to meet you. I've never heard of a woman who can get on a

bulldozer and drive away with it".
* From a very "mature" roofer:
"You can actually tell what the
problem is with this roof!
Unbelievable!".

* From a very disgruntled job
superintendent: "What is the world
coming to? The superintendent on
the project next to mine is a
woman, and now I have to listen to
a woman engineer telling me what to
do on my site!".

Why do some people find it so
difficult to picture, or deal with,
a woman carrying out these
functions?

Simply because we have not been
used to it. Yet if we think about
it for a minute, what difference is
there between reading through a
level or a microscope? If the
educational background and
experience are there, what
difference does it make if a
problem is discussed by a man or a
woman? If you drive a car with a
standard transmission, there is not
much more to operating a bulldozer.
It takes practice of course!

Tell me, are there any really valid
reasons why women cannot function
in technology or in a non-
traditional occupation? Keep in
mind that the lack of precedent is
not a valid reason.

New Feminist Clearinghouse
Women's Information Line, 926-8700,

offers information about groups,
events, political activities and
feminist resources in Toronto. They
see themselves as a vehicle to make
existing service and affinity
groups more visible to more and
more women.

W.I.L. suggests to newcomers,
"where to join the women's
movement", info on support groups
for mothers, working out, looking
for jobs, etc. 24 hour taped
message (feminist quote of the
week!); phone lines staffed Wed. &
Thurs., 7 - 10 p.m.

Canadian Women's Festival '85

Note: Canadian Women's Music
Festival and Cultural Festival/ Le
Festival Cultural des Femmes
Canadiennes, 3D - 161 Stratford
Street, Winnipeg, R3M 2W9. (204)
477-5478 Featuring (among many
others) Lillian Allen, Anita Best,
Connie Kaldor, Joy Kagawa and the
Swing Sisters! Music, Theatre,
Dance, Poetry, Prose, Visual Arts,
Kids Area.

Anti-Abortion Film Is Suspect

OCSW members may have heard about
a sensationalized film by the self
proclaimed "pro-life" movement. We
think some facts about the film
should be more widely known. The
following is a synopsis of a letter
from Childbirth by Choice Trust,
40 St. Clair Ave. East, #310,
Toronto, M4T 1M9, 961-1507

"The Silent Scream" - A Study in deception: is an attempt to give an aura of scientific respectability to the anti-abortion position. But the film is unscientific and factually incorrect and adds nothing to the current debate.

Unscientific: Narrator, Dr. Bernard Nathanson begins his presentation with a host of polysyllabic scientific terms to establish his authority and the supposed scientific objectivity of the film. He continues with a highly-charged "description" of an abortion viewed through ultrasound. But here is what experts say:

Dr. Martin Gillieson, director of gynecological ultrasound, Ottawa General Hospital -- The film tries to portray the fetus "assuming all the attributes of an 8 year old child". The ultrasound images do not show what Nathanson claims. The "silent scream" of the fetus is actually the space between the head and chest -- not the mouth.

To date, no experts in the field have defended Nathanson's thesis.

Dishonest: Dr. John Hobbins, Yale School of Medicine and Dr. Gillieson believe the film may have been sped up in spots to make it appear the fetus is thrashing in pain.

Dr. Philip Hall, associate professor of gynecology and

obstetrics, Univ. of Ottawa, points to the misleading enlargement of the ultrasound image and the model used in some scenes to represent the fetus, which gives the impression the 12 week old fetus is as big as a full term baby, instead of its actual two inches.

Also, the film totally ignores a woman's point of view. We are scarcely mentioned and when we are, it is only as passive carriers of the fetus or as 'victims' of abortion.

Further, the film does not advance solutions to the abortion problem. It tells us abortion is unpleasant but not how abortion can be prevented. There is no mention of sex education, contraception or contraceptive information which would reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies and thus the need for abortion.