SUDBURY WOMEN'S CENTRE

CENTRE DES EXPMES DE SUDBURY

ANNOUNCEMENTS!! ( What? No coming events?)

As many of you may already know, Marylou Murray our co-ordinator, has moved on to bigger & better things ( we hope!). Although she emphasizes that she will not be leaving the face of the Earth, we will miss her. Marylou was always at the Centre to greet you with a smile and some work to do! Marylou's contribution to the Sudbury Women's Centre was evident through her committment to women's issues, her initiative, and her long hours. We wish her well!

BUT... WHAT ABOUT THE COMING EVENTS?

Well, ahem... Marylou was my source for coming events, and so... If you are a member of any of our numerous committees, i.e. Rape Crisis Centre, Steering Committee, Affirmative Action Committee, please call the Centre to find out about meeting dates and times for the month of September.

IN THE MEANTIME....

SEPT. 14 Freedom of Choice Public Forum

SEPT. 19 Pro-Choice Defence Fund meeting 7:30 p.m. SEPT. 23 Second Annual Take Back the Night March at 8:00 PM

SEPT. 21, 22, 23 § 24 Pornography Workshops ( see pages 5 § 6 for details)

FUNDRAISING REPORT

1. Donations from membership(Thank you, thank you)

June - \$115.00 July - \$102.00

2. Rummage Sale - \$126.87

3. Bingos: July 14 - 77.63
July 21 - 455.17
July 28 - 725.12
August 4 - 84.24
August 11 - 179.16

THANX to the following members for their help: Pat Tobin, Joan Buchanan, Carolynn Campbell, Joanne Kuchera, Helen Ghent, Christine Peets, Maureen Hyman, Shirley Lacelle, Kathy Brankley, Yvonne Makosz-Jones & Nina Nasedkin!



Dear Editor,

Dear Editor.

Further to your article in the August newsletter on equal pay: women are frequently referred to as positry. We cluck at hen parties. When we aren't henpecking men, we are egging them on. In youth, we are chicks, mothers watch over their broods. Later we are old biddies with empty nest syndrome. Is it just a coincidence that so many women's wages are chickenfeed?

PLEASE NOTE: Miner's Mothers' Day has gone by and we are still selling buttons, etc... BUT many members took buttons "on assignment" and haven't yet brought the money in. Please bring the money for the buttons you have sold down to the Centre so we can have some idea of how we're doing!

AND... FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE...

Joanne Kuchera has recently joined the Women's Centre, and holds our newest position: member-at-large. Mother of four, Joanne completed her high school last year as a mature student, and this year has been accepted at the Industrial Training Centre for Women. She is particularly concerned about pornography and sexist advertising.



#### YARD SALE AUGUST 21

Thanks go out to all who contributed their "goodies". What remained was distributed to the YWCA Crisis Centre, Recovery Home for Women and the Salvation Army. A big THANK YOU to workers Jan, Maureen, Carolynn \$ Joanne - and a special thanks to Rosemary who donated her time, her goodies, her yard and made great coffee! We made over \$50.00.

A NEW LOOK FOR THE WOMEN'S CENTRE! For those of you who haven't been down to the Centre in awhile, we are still located at 38 Beech St.W. However, the Centre was painted last month, the decor was changed a bit, and the Centre is now decidedly more cheerful. Do come and see for yourself.

A special thanks to Marylou and to Paulette Taillefer for her hard work!

For some time now, I have been pointing out to my daughters, first hand examples of women working in non-traditional employment. We have friends, women, who are lawyers, one who is a psychiatrist, a doctor, a computer specialist, a corporate manager. I show them women on road construction. I even asked a police officer who delivered a sub-peona to witness if she would step in to meet my children. I whispered that my then 5 year old had just proclaimed that women could only cook and clean. Studies have indicated that even children of women actively employed in professions believe that it cannot be so. So pervasive is the culture, that the myth supercedes the reality of their daily lives.

Letty Cottin Pogrebin, in her book Growing Up Free-Raising Your Child in the 80's, provides excellent insight. For you women raising sons, let me assure you there is lots of material here to explain why non-sexist childrearing is as vital for our boys as for our girls. The issue is liberation not "emasculation". Pogrebin details this explicitly with extensive references. She attacks the fallacy of the "us and them" polarization, showing the dangers to personal development of our lock-step definitions

of "the feminine" and "the masculine".

Back to my story.... Well, I've been into this book pretty solidly of late. I've been watching my own sexist language. I have been stopping them cold when they drop a gem like "Girls are the opposite of boys.", trying to help them explore the commonalities they have with their male friends instead of focusing only one the much fewer differences. I've been making sure that at least some of the time we play the kinds of games boys play. I've been acknowledging accomplishments instead of rewarding being "good and pretty". If you are bored reading this list, imagine how bored my daughters were getting. Anyhow, enough to illustrate that the pressure was on at our house. Last week we were out for lunch, just us girls (Oh: I mean women) when in came Judy Erola. I leaned across the table and launched into a monologue about cabinet ministers and parliamentary democracy. I topped it off by saying that that woman right over there held this unfortunately non-traditional post, AND would they like to meet her? Having met Ms. Erola at the Women's Centre this spring, I felt she would be open to this venture, especially if we were gracious enough to wait until she had finished chewing her salad. Alison (she's 6) banished the need for my qualms about interrupting a public figure on her personal time by issuing a flat NO! She fixed me with her steely glare and disgustedly said, "Mother, must you always go around talking to strangers!?" She had me over a barrel. You can imagine diatribe I had preached on other occasions on the theme "Speaking to Strangers". Well, we had a brief discussion qualifying that theme, and then we left without meeting The Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. I guess it's time to cool it a little, eh? It is obvious I was about to publically embarass my children -- the worst of all fates for the post-six year old crowd. You can't learn anything in that climate. We'll lay back a little, but keep working on it. And to Ms. Erola, who gets our newsletter, or would never know that this drama had unfolded around her, we hope to meet you another day.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Christine Peets reviewed Pogrebin's book in the May issue of our newsletter. We discussed it at our in-house workshop on non-sexist chilrearing, and adjourned to do some reading, with plans to get together again. In case you are interested, we will keep you posted of when we will "officially" re-convene. The book is not available in Sudbury. It was available at the Toronto Women's Bookstore, but as many of you will have heard, this was destroyed by fire. It was below Henry Morgentaler's Clinic. Some people act out their politics violently. The book can be ordered through the:

Ottawa Women's Bookstore, 380 Elgin St., Ottawa, K2P lNl \$9.95 plus postage & handling

It sounds pricey, but believe me it's priceless

# The Health Page - September '83 4

Hi again! As promised, this month's featurette is: <u>your Vagina and you</u>. We all know where our vaginas are located, right? Well, just for the record, the vagina is between the wrethra and the anus. Which is why your mother told you to always wipe front to back.

The vagina is constructed of smooth muscle and mucous membranes, forming a tube-like structure capable of incredible elastic feats.

Many women complain that after childbirth they are stretched way out of Shape: their vaginas have let them down!

like any other muscle group, your vagina will respond to exercise.

ONE-TWO-THREE, DO THE ELEVATOR.

lmagine your vagina as an elevator. Clench those vaginal walls (not your teeth): a little clench for the first floor, a stronger one for floor number two, even tighter for the third floor (ladies' lingerie)—and then go down—right to the basement (which is good for the old pelvic floor). Remember to go one floor at a time, both up and down.

this is also called the Kegel exercise, and you can do it anywhere. Try for 100 times a day, while you have your morning coffee, doing typing, waiting for: the bus, the laundry, the doctor...

You can check on progress by doing this exercise when you pee. See if you can stop the flow: that will give you a good idea of how hard you need to clench.

The neat thing about this is:

you're the only one who knows

you're doing it!!

NEXT MONTH:

BREASTS

THE STORY OF VAGINAL DISCHARGE.

It used to be "vaginal edour" and we were all told to douche and spray ourselves silly, or else we'd have this incredibly offensive stench. Now we know douching only destroys the normal balance of the vagina. But the ever-thoughtful producers of "feminine hygiene" products have come up with "panty liners" for the embarassing problem of vaginal discharge.

It is NORMAL to have a certain amount of CLEAR, ODOURLESS DISCHARGE (especially at ovulation). Anything that persists as a smelly, yellowy, grayish, white discharge or causes itching or burning should be checked out with your friendly doctor— who should take a swab.

Another point - when you change sexual partners, use condoms the first week or so, until your vagina adjusts to the flora and fauna of the new mate. It may not sound like fun (condoms are like making love in Tubber boots), but it will save you the discomfort of infection.

QUICK NOTE ON TOXIC SHOCK

SUNDROME: Don't use extra-super
tampons; don't leave tampons in
for more than 4 hours; don't use
tampons while sleeping...

HELP: HEALTH-SHARING, a wonderful magazine put out in Toronto is in danger of folding. This women's collective needs financial aid. (Amy amount - I'm sending \$50.00. How about YOU?! SEND TO: P.O. 230, STATION M, TORONTO, MGS 4T3.)

As a preface to this month's Pornography Conference (September 21, 22, 23 & 24), may I bring to your attention an article which was featured in the Toronto Stars on August 17th: Christine Ferguson, a fifth-grade teacher in Scarborough, Ont. gave her class a composition assignment. Christine was in for a shock as she read through one boy's composition:

"And then the man raped the lady. And then another man raped her, and another man... and then they cut her up."

The composition then described in graphic detail a porn videotape about gang rape and mutilation his parents had shown the night before at his uncle's house. One month later, that same boy was caught grinding a lit cigarette into a younger pupil's neck. Right now, you probably have a tight feeling in your chest: that tight feeling is most likely anger. I know that I am angry, and when I speak to other women about pornography I sense their anger too. We are angry because we are confronted with images of women bound & gagged, tortured and raped, stuffed into meat grinders, and we are told that women enjoy it all. PORNOGRAPHY LIES! It lies to you when you go the local confectionery to get a quart of milk and this month's Chatelaine, and what you get is Cheri, Hustler, Swank, Oui, Playboy, Penthouse, Club, Eros, Big Boobs, & Sluts & Slobs, And now, in some confectioneries it lies across the alsle in the video section, with titles like I Spit on Your Grave, Skin Tight, The Best of Sex & Violence and Snuff.

Kathleen Barry, in Sexual Slavery states that "pornography is a practice of cultural sadism as well as a means of diffusing it into the mainstream of accepted behaviour and therefore into private lives of individuals. It is the principal medium through which cultural sadism becomes part of the sexual practices of individuals. The most prevalent theme in pornography is one of utter contempt for women. In movie after movie women are raped, ejaculated on, urinated on, anally penetrated, beaten, and with the advent of snuff films, murdered in an orgy of sexual pleasure".

The September issue of Chatelaine features a series of articles on pornography, including an article written by Margaret Atwwod. Atwood discusses the on-going battle of anti-porners vs. anti-censorship: "the camp in favour of toal freedom of expression often comes out howling as loud as the Romans would had they been told they could no longer have innocent fun watching the lions eat up Christians. Whatever turns you on is a handy motto, as is A man's home is his castle (and if it includes a dungeon with beautiful maidens strung up in chains and bleeding from every pore, that's his business". Atwwood's sentiments reflect my own following the municipal by-law recently enacted in Toronto which requires pornography to be displayed at least 1.5 meters above-ground. Shortly after, Pierre Berton was quoted as saying the by-law discriminated against midgets. Another defense for pornography is "what will the handicapped do?" Well, what do handicapped women do? Who are we to assume that all handicapped individuals rely solely on pornography for sexual stimulation?

Research has shown that a majority of the market for pornography is from the 16 to 21 year old population of youg men. As Atwood asks: "what happens when boy educated on porn meets girl brought up on Harlequin romances?

She wants him to get down on his knees with a ring, he wants her to get down on all fours with a ring in her nose. Can this marriage be saved?"

All wittiness aside, it is time women in Sudbury join women across the country in their battle against pornography. But where do we start? The Pornography Conference is an excellent start: if you avoid glancing over at the porn magazines, we will show you exactly what is available in Sudbury. Confronting pornography is a painful process, but a necessary one. We will also discuss how women can fight pornography individually and collectively.

An article in the Summer edition of Status of Women News says it all: Direct Action is the most effective weapon we have. What action can you take? Confront propietors and merchants directly; picket and march to get media attention; refuse to have porn in your home; refuse to watch porn movies at your neighbours'; find a way to honour those who refuse porn profits.

Finally, attend the Conference in September: to start you thinking about pornography, read the following ad. from Red Hot\_Video's catalogue.

#### CATALOGUE Nº 20

NOV. 12, 1982

## Red Hot Video

WESTERN CANADA'S LEADING SUPPLIER OF "ADULT VIDEO TAPES"

#### EROTIC THEME DIRECTORY

REF NO.	EROTIC THEME	FILMS		COMMENT	
8	INCEST	66, 68, 103, 196, 282, 307			
7	LESBIAN	15, 25, 241		Every porn film has the obligatory lesbian scene, but these three are memorable.	
3	ANAL SEX	9, 23, 258, 274, 275, 356, 170			
	difficultation of the	9, 23, 236, 274, 273, 336, 170			
2	SONDAGE & DISCIPLINE SADISM & MASOCHISM	19, 40, 41, 51, 58, 94, 91, 69, 88, 119, 138, 155, 201, 210, 234, 274, 284, 295, 310, 331, 338, 347, 394		A number of films have standard S&M scenes. These are either films designed exclusively for S&M/8&D buffs, or have an outstanding S&M scene in what is otherwise not a bondage flick.	
10	PROSTITUTION	5, 7, 14, 29, 50, 120, 231, 233, 280, 282, 286			
17	RAPE & GANG-BANG	11, 38, 38, 89, 104, 197, 215, 2	Rape and gang-bangs are pretty much standard fare in		
12	YOUNG GIRLS	8. 13. 34. 42. 60. 63. 65. 76. 1 159. 160, 170, 210, 214, 328, 1 411, 412, 413, 414			

PORNOGRAPHY LIES!

ATTEND THE SUDBURY

WOMEN'S CENTRE'S

CONFERENCE ON PORNO
GRAPHY.

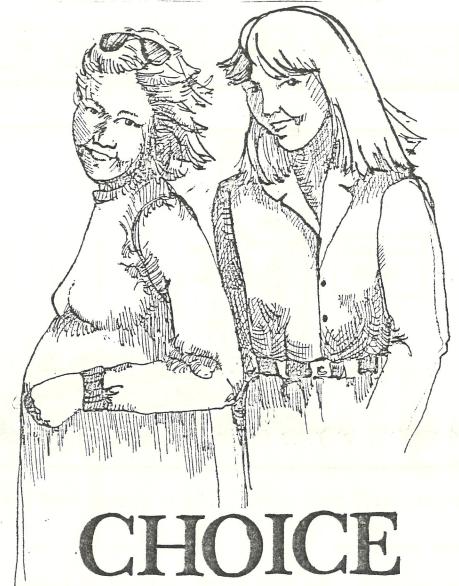
WHEN: SEPT. 21, 22, 23+24

### WHERE:

: SEPT. 21+22 AT THE
SUDBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY
: LOCATION NOT YET
CONFIRMED FOR 23+24TH

TIME: 7:30 PM

the issue is



BUT...what exactly does Choice mean? And doesn't it exist now?

To find out why Reproductive Choice and the right to abortion are such important women's issues, come to the Forum on Choice, September 14, 7:30 p.m. at the Sudbury Public Library (McKenzie St.)

Speakers will explain the present law on abortions, and will talk about access to abortion under that law. An employee of the Sudbury Health Unit and a worker at an abortion referral agency will discuss the local situation (a lot of reférrals out of city and province).

Norma Scarborough, President of Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (C.A.R.A.L.) will talk about her legal case in which she is petitioning the Supreme Court of Ontario for a declaration that the right to abortion is guaranteed under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

A member of the Ontario Coalition of Abortion Clinics (OCAC)

N.B. \*

will tell us about the situations with the Morgentaler Clinics in Toronto and Winnipeg, and why free-standing abortion clinics are so necessary.

IF YOU SUPPORT CHOICE OVER IF AND WHEN TO BE A PARENT.... show your support by coming to the Forum. No doubt THOSE WHO OPPOSE CHOICE will be there. So will the PRESS. So let's show solidarity over this intensely important issue. BE THERE!



LETTERS TO WRITE THIS MONTH....!!!!! PLEASE TAKE PEN IN HAND...

1. JUDY EROLA, MP: recently admitted publicly that she is disturbed by the inequality of abortion services across the country...and then added that the government plans to do nothing about it (too politically sensitive??)

Write to Judy Erola and tell her that as Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, she knows that Canadian women are capable, responsible human beings well able to determine when, whether, and how many children to bear.

2. We have been leaked a secret document of Campaign Life (those anti-choice foes) which sets out their upcoming strategies. eg-members of that group are urged to protest to CBC about its biased coverage on the abortion issue (they feel CBC is giving pro-choice some favourable coverage: could it be because 72% of Canadians support choice???)

Anyway...why not write to CBC and congratulate them on the coverage?

Pierre Juneau CBC, P.O Bx 8748 Ottawa, Ont. KIG 3J5 John Owen, Executive Producer The National, CBC Box 500, Sta. "A" Toronto, Ont., M5W IE6



NB: She's the President?

Tof the National Action

Committee on the Status

of Women - NAC.

We belong to NAC -50

do 2 million other

Women! We must be a

vocal inajority

Dear Friend:

I am writing to you about two matters of overwhelming concern.

Last December 1981, in a decision which suprised many legal observers, the Supreme Court of Canada granted Joe Borowski, an opponent of abortion, standing to challenge Canada's current abortion legislation. Borowski contends that fertilized eggs are persons, entitled to the protection of the Canadian Bill of Rights. If the courts accept his argument, abortion for any reason will be forbidden in Canada and women will lose even the limited access they have now.

The case began on May 9, 1983 in the Court of Queen's Bench, Saskatchewan. The federal government is the defendant. The Canadian Abortion Rights Action League, of which I am an honorary director, sought to intervene to ensure that the rights of women were represented. We were denied intervenor status and therefore have decided to begin our own action. This will be a major constitutional challenge of the current abortion law. Our position is that this law is contrary to the new Charter of Rights and Freedoms because it denies freedom of choice to women. If we win, freedom of choice will be a reality in Canada.

Canadian law currently restricts abortion to approved or accredited hospitals and requires a Therapeutic Abortion Committee of no fewer than three doctors to decide whether a woman should be allowed an abortion. But the law does not require a hospital to establish such a committee and, in fact, fewer than one-fifth of Canadian hospitals have them. The result is that women in many parts of the country have no access at all to legal abortion. Even in major centres, quota systems at the hospitals restrict access and cause delays which increase the risk to a women's health.

Perhaps you have read about the intention of Dr. Henry Morgentaler and other doctors to ensure access to safe abortion by opening free-standing clinics in major centres across Canada. Dr. Morgentaler opened his first clinic in 1969 because, even though legally permitted to do so, most hospitals in Quebec would not provide abortion services.

A free-standing clinic is one which is not in a hospital. Today there are several such clinics in Ouebec, some in community health centres. The government there allows them to operate based on the precedent of Dr. Morgentaler's three jury acquittals.

But physicians who establish and work in free-standing clinics in provinces other than Quebec are likely to be prosecuted. They will need assistance to mount a defence.

The Canadian Abortion Rights Action League has been working since 1974 to make abortion a decision between a woman and her doctor. Today, we are both fighting in the courts with the case we have started and supporting the efforts of physicians who are willing to help women in need.

Our participation in these legal actions and our ongoing advocacy activities on behalf of women will cost CARAL thousands of dollars.

But CARAL is not allied, as are those who would outlaw abortion, with large, wealthy and powerful organizations. We must look to you, and to others who share our concerns, for the funds we need to see these battles through.

With your assistance we can win. Please contribute to CARAL today.

Donis Anderson

I wish to become a member of CANADIAN ABORTION RIGHTS ACTION LEAGUE (CARAL) CARAL. associ...tion canadienne pour le dioid a l'avgrement, act a Yes, I want to help CARAL fight this threat to safe legal abortion. I believe in freedom of choice but would like more information about I enclose a cheque made out to CARAL for: CARAL before becoming a 5500 \$200 \$100 \$50 \$35 member. I am already a member of CARAL: enclosed is an extra contribution to defray legal expenses. ☐ Je préfère recevoir des renseignements en français. Your contribution, not tax deductible, will be receipted promptly.

#### DAYCARE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our application to the Ministry of Community & Social Services (COMSOC) for our Day Care Resources Project has been submitted. We anxiously await the Review Committee's reply.

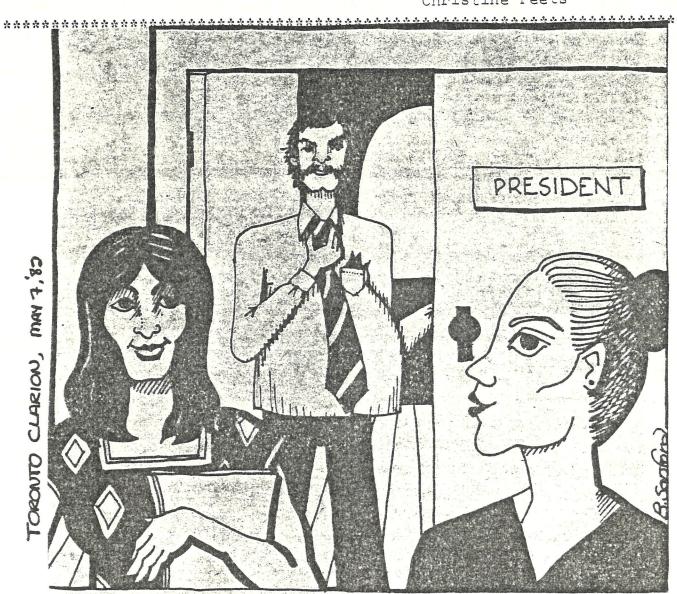
The project will allow us to set up a registry of local caregivers as well as sponsor a series of wrokshops in areas of daycare and child development.

At this point the committee has decided that we will likely sponsor the workshops regardless of the grant status. Keep your fingers crossed that we will get the project approved.

The first workshop, CHOOSING GOOD DAYCARE will be ehld Monday, Sept. 26 at 7:30. Watch for posters for the exact location!

If you have any questions, please call me at 675-6518. More news next month!

Christine Peets



Now I'll bet we'll see the company move on our daycare

#### BOOK REVIEW

Sybil Shack - The Two-thirds Minority ( available at the Centre - WOR)

This isn't a book of statistics and charts, but rather, a perceptive account of one woman's encounter with the Canadian education system. It's filled with personal tales and quotes from women as teachers, students and resource people past, present and future. PAST: working under conditions over which they had little control, themselves the victims of a system that put more emphasis on saving money than on providing adequate training and equipment, often undereducated, bewildered by the impossibility of the task they were asked to do, they still made an incalculable contribution. Frequently they were the only civilizing influence in the small communities to which they came. PRESENT: at a big technical-vocational school with thousands of students, one girl is enrolled in a motor mechanics course, while almost the total enrollment in X-ray technician or dental hygiene is female. The one girl who had taken the course in plumbing had been about the best student in the class, where her colleagues treated her with some respect but more condescention. FUTURE: the whole area of human relations at every age level is explored and opened for investigation. Production of educational materials, computer programs, and consultations provided by innovative and experienced teachers who would otherwise be "declared redundant", their classroom jobs threatened by the declining birthrate.

There are several copies available at the library under WORK, along with the library's many other topics - violence, health, children's books, etc...

Jan Morel

\*

#### AN OPEN LETTER FROM CHRISTINE PEETS

Shock and anger best describe my reaction to the senseless destruction of the Toronto Women's Bookstore. The store was an invaluable resource for a great variety of material. It was always a pleasure to just Be There even if I didn't nedd anything.

I had planned to ask you to be part of a collective donation for the renovation. However, rather than send our donation directly to Toronto, there is another plan already in action.

I recently received a letter from a women's group in London who are spear-heading the Relocation Fund effort. Some of you may have received a similar letter. Rather than sending individual donations, send your donation to our Centre: I will gather them and send one donation on behalf of the Sudbury Women's Centre to the group in London.

If you prefer, you could send your donation to:

Toronto Women's Bookstore Relocation Fund c/o Sasha McInnes Hayman 28 Elmwood Place London, Ontario N6J 1J2

As the bookstore is run on a non-profit basis, please be as generous as you can. All donations are greatly appreciated. Your cancelled cheque is your receipt.







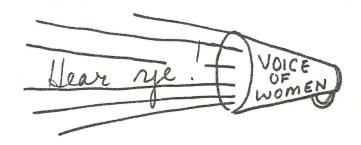
THE SECOND ANNUAL TAKE BACK THE NIGHT MARCH WILL ISE HELD FRIDAY, SEPT. 23 RD. MARCHERS SHOULD MEET AT THE CENTRE, 38 BEECH ST. W., AT 8:00 PM.

LAST YEAR, APPROXIMATELY 35 WOMEN & GIRLS MARCHED IN THE RAIN TO RECLAIM THEIR RIGHT TO WALK SAFELY, WITHOUT FEAR OF VIOLENCE, AT NIGHT.

JOIN US THIS YEAR! IF YOU'VE EVER FEARED WALKING AT NIGHT, IF YOU'VE AVOIDED SIDEWALKS AND BUSH AREAS AFTER DARK, IF YOU'VE WHISTLED TO APPEAR UNAFRAID, IF YOU INSIST THAT SOMEONE MEET YOU AT THE BUS STOR AT WIGHT \_ THEN YOU KNOW THE FEAR.

JOIN US FOR THIS INTERNATIONAL MARCH TO TAKE BACK THE NIGHT!





Frequently the Sudbury Women's Centre receives requests from the media, community associations, and employee groups, for speakers on various issues affecting women. We would like to organize a list of members who would speak on such topics as these:

Affirmative action, equal pay
Career counselling and guidance for women
Daycare
Family Benefits
Herstory
Mental and physical health
Microtechnology
Native Women
Pornography and other images of women in the media
Sex-role stereotyping and sexism

Women in non-traditional roles

I would like to use a prepared text



Sample presentations on many of these topics are already available for resource. If you are interested in being a member of the Sudbury Women's Centre's Speakers' Bureau, please fill the form and return to the Women's Centre by Sept. 12th. We will be printing a list of speakers and topics and co-ordinating requests through the Centre.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_

ADBRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

The topic(s) on which I would be prepared to speak to community groups, associations, schools, etc. is (are): \_\_\_\_\_\_

Languages in which I would be prepared to speak \_\_\_\_\_