

# come & celebrate International Women's Day

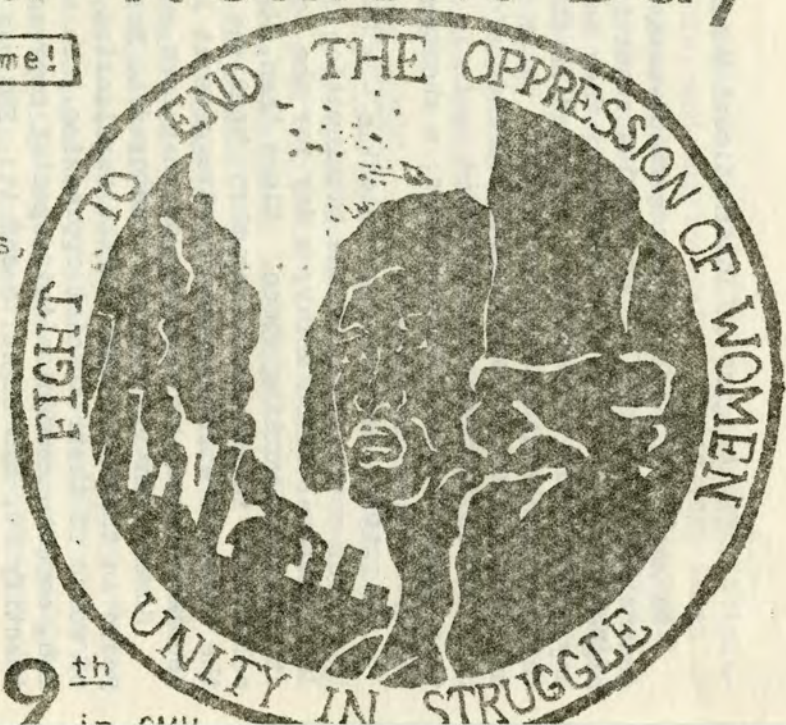
Everyone is Welcome!

**forums** and  
discussions on sexist  
ideology, campus workers,  
and the welfare system.

**films** and  
guerrilla theatre.

sponsored by *SDS*

March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>



## The Origins of International Women's Day

On March 8th, 1857, women garment-workers in New York City demonstrated against rotten working conditions, demanding higher pay and a shorter work week; they worked a 12-hour day. Many were arrested and trampled in the confusion of the police harrassment. These women later formed their own union. In 1908, on March 8th thousands of women working in the needles industry demonstrated again in New York City, and they again demanded higher wages, a shorter work week, and better working conditions.

In 1919 in Denmark Clara Zletkin - a German socialist in the labor movement - led the proclamation of March 8th as International Women's Day, a day for the commemoration of the struggles of working women. Since then, March 8th has been celebrated in many contries throughout the world, although the focus of working women's struggles at low-level jobs has become blurred, or else the day has been entirely forgotten.

Some attention has been restored to March 8th in recent years in the U.S.A. due to the realization among thousands of women of their special oppression. We must all, women and men, come to recognize this special oppression, learn how to identify it, and fight to end it! SDS has organized a two day conference and celebration this year with these very objectives. Come, let us celebrate and learn together on March 8th & 9th (Thursday & Friday) in Coffman Union.

### Topics for Discussion at Lenght

Sexist ideologies and practices: "Science has produced numerous theories designed to prove the biological inferiority of women. Just as slavery, imperialism, and fascism gave rise to innumerable pseudoscientific theories intended to demonstrate the inferiority of oppressed peoples and to justify genocide, an impressive number of theories designed to keep women "in their place" have been contrived by psychoanalysts, biologists, doctors, sociologists, and anthropologists.

"The radically opposing sex models that prevail are the product of the division of labor. Based on obvious biological differences, a vast cultural superstructure has been ~~erected~~ created, postulating not only physical types, but also temperaments, character traits, preferences, tastes and talents, ~~and~~ are all assumed to be biologically inherent in each

sex; they are considered to be secondary sex characteristics—immutable, inevitable, and ahistorical." These very ideas are taught on this campus, which - when implemented - spell out the special oppression of women in a very material way.

"If for a moment we were able to free ourselves from all the prejudices and the distorted personal experiences which have formed our ideology of sex, we would recognize that the opposing models of today are not due to basic biological differences but to the thousands of years in which division of labor has prevailed."

Women as working people: In the home, women have been relegated to (1) biological reproduction, (2) educating and caring for children, the sick and the elderly, and (3) seeing to it that labors of men outside the home is continued. Most of this labor is considered invisible because it does not result in a real product. Therefore women in the home are paid little to nothing for their labor. Mothers on welfare receive some of the worst treatment in our society because their hard labors are not recognized; they are portrayed by the press as parasites. Further, because of sexist and racist ideas pushed by those who run this country, welfare mothers—the victims—are blamed for their own plight.

Sexist ideas, that have resulted in the exploitation of women at home, have created a great boon for the modern industrial capitalist. Sexism plays two important roles in the modern industrial state: First, huge profits are extracted, because of wage differences between women and men. In the U.S., more than 37% of the work force is made up of women; since each woman is paid less than her male counterpart, Business men make over 100 million dollars on this differential each year. Second, sexism is used by these big bosses to keep the wages of all workers down. By keeping workers divided along sex (and race) lines, they prevent a unified struggle which would ensure higher wages, a shorter work week and better working conditions for all working people and smaller profits for these business giants.

Women have played key roles in the struggles of all working people for their just demands. However, due to again sexism, this role has never really even gotten a passing mention in our history books. From our limited resources, we will attempt to let some of this history be known at the conference and celebration. See you on Thursday & Friday!!

International  
Working  
Women's Day  
Celebration

day care  
provided  
- FREE -

All men -  
seriously  
interested  
- are  
Welcome!

Thursday, March 8:

- 2 - 3:30 pm FILM "Where am I now  
that I need me" POP-INN
- 2 - 3:30 pm "Sexist Ideology and  
Practices in Education"  
(panel) 305/307/309 Coffman
- 4:45 pm FILM about Women Workers --  
"Salt of the Earth"/short (3rd)
- 6:30 pm Campus Workers FORUM  
Organizing, Shorter Work Week  
(30 for 40) & Local 1164,  
AFSCME & UMFT Local (3rd fl.)
- 7:30 pm "Socialist Feminism - N.A.M." (3rd)
- 8:30 pm Video-tape production of  
"The Women's Film"

Organized by  
Anti-sexism  
Committee  
of SDS

Members of  
Local 1164  
Progressive  
Labor Party

The Women's  
Union

New American  
Movement

For more  
information  
call April  
at 377-2286  
or Betty at  
335-2537.

Friday, March 9:

- 12 noon Progressive Labor Party FORUM  
"Capitalism & the Oppression  
of Women" 320 Coffman
- 1:30 pm "Black Women and the  
Women's Liberation Movement"  
(panel) 320 Coffman
- 3:30 pm "Women and Prisons"  
(panel) 307/309 Coffman
- also: "Growing Up Female" FILM  
320 Coffman
- 4:30 pm "Welfare System & Women Workers  
in the Home"  
(panel) 320 Coffman
- 6:30 pm "Women & Labor History"  
(panel) 320 Coffman
- 7:30 pm SLIDE-SHOW & LIVE THEATRE  
by the Women's Union (3rd fl.)