

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

HI, HONEY. I WANTED TO DO
SOMETHING IN RECOGNITION
OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY,
SO...

MARCH
10



WELL, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT.
YOU COULD FINISH THESE DISHES
BECAUSE I'VE GOT TO GO TO
THE MARCH. AND YOU COULD
MAKE SUPPER AND FEED BABY.



AND YOU COULD HELP ME FIND CHILD
CAKE SOMETIME, TAKE DOWN THOSE
SUNSHINE GIRLS AT WORK - SUPPORT
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION THERE AS WELL!
AND IF YOU'RE REALLY INTERESTED...



ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING OF
SOMETHING MORE LIKE ORDERING
IN CHINESE FOOD.



What's it got to do with men?

Women around the world have claimed International Women's Day as a day of protest and solidarity. What's it got to do with us?

How would you like a 40% pay cut? Women typically take home only 60% of what we do. They're faced with lower paid jobs and unequal pay. High unemployment hits women harder: as last hired they are the first to be fired. Most places they work, they don't even have the collective security a union offers. Women will continue to fight — against us if necessary but with us if we join them — to achieve equality in the workforce.

How often do we think about birth control? Not too often: we don't get pregnant. No method of birth control is both safe and effective, and abortion, the least preferred method, is increasingly unsafe, inaccessible and costly. Most hospitals don't even offer abortions. Has a friend of yours ever been faced with an unwanted pregnancy?

A woman is sexually assaulted every six minutes in Canada. And they know all too well that passion is not a factor: these are acts of violence. Bad enough that one woman in ten can expect a beating from the man she lives with, but recently we've seen the victims of sexual assault jailed. Pornography, which creates sexual playmates for us, encourages this male violence against women. *Have you ever thought of doing something about it?*

OVER PLEASE ▶

Jobs, birth control and male violence against women; those are only a few of the issues that affect women's position in society. Other problems, such as the lack of affordable daycare, pension difficulties for older women and sexual harassment on the job, are also important.

Maybe because men see these problems as only "women's issues" they haven't been concerned enough to get involved in solving them. Sure, lots of men are sympathetic to women's attempts to improve things but what have they actually done to help? It's time for more action from men.

One issue that stands out particularly this year is the fight for choice on abortion. A clinic was opened in Toronto last summer to offer women abortion services that are difficult or impossible to receive through Ontario hospitals. That clinic was raided and closed by the police, forcing a court case which will cost pro-choice forces hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees and untold hours of volunteer work. If the case is lost women's right to choose an abortion will be set back years.

It's time we did something more. A lot of men today realize that women should have

the right to choose whether or not they have a baby if they become pregnant. Some men quietly agree with the pro-choice position, while others might talk about it at work and maybe attend pro-choice rallies or donate money. Unfortunately though, most men simply aren't doing enough. It's time we did something more.

We can organize ourselves. We think it's time men took some responsibility and did something on their own instead of pretending pro-choice on abortion is just a "women's issue" that can be left to women to fight for. It's our fight too. And we can organize ourselves to give much needed support to the women already involved.

Isn't it about time? Times are getting hard for the pro-choice movement. The people who would force women to have unwanted children or resort to dangerous backstreet abortions are well-financed and highly organized. Even though the majority of Canadians support choice it's a tough battle. That's why it's time for men to stand up and be counted instead of just paying "lip service" to pro-choice from a nice, safe distance. Working together and with women we can not only win this fight but others too. *Isn't it about time?*

If you agree that it's time for men to get more involved in the pro-choice fight and other issues discussed here, come to a meeting where we can talk about what could be done.

Monday April 2, 1984 at 7:30 pm
University Settlement House — Basement Room
23 Grange Road (off McCaul south of Dundas)

*This leaflet was collectively produced by a group of anti-sexist men.
To get in touch call Alan 978-3930 (days) or Tony 766-2434 (evenings).*