

UWC conference a success

Women Aware '81 draws 200 to GDHS

By JUDY ROBINSON
Herald Staff Writer

"The best part of the day for me, was having the opportunity to share my feelings with other women," said one of over 200 participants at Women Aware '81, presented by the Georgetown University Women's Club Saturday.

The day-long extravaganza, held at Georgetown High School, included informative workshops, films, entertainment and a keynote speech. The conference opened with the speech by Chaviva Hosek, Secretary of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.

"The happiest women today are those with multiple roles, including being a mother and having a career. These women are not depressed during menopause and when the children leave home," she said.

"The things that women have to juggle are astonishing. When men do similar activities they get paid as managers. The kind of work that women are called upon to do develops managerial skills."

Ms. Hosek read excerpts from several books written by women disclosing problems in male-female relationships. Although the audience laughed openly at the blatant sexual stereotypes, there was an undertone of anger both in their reactions and in the speaker's voice.

TOO GREAT
"Lowered self-esteem is too great a price to pay for anything," she commented. "And sometimes you have to be able to tell your partner that they're wrong. Real support is helping them to be the best person they can be."

"One out of three American women lack the skills to survive economically on their own. The more intelligent a woman is, the less competent she feels, because that is not society's stereotype of a good woman."

Ms. Hosek explained how women between 35 and 55 suddenly discover that they have rights to a life outside the home, while men that age are threatened by this movement. "I sometimes get frightened and discouraged when I think about the next stage in our history because of the backlash against women. But it's worse for women not to fight it. The sad truth is that most of us are more willing to fight for our children than for ourselves," she admitted.

Workshops began at 10:30 a.m. on topics such as female sexuality, stress management, strategies for career development, holistic medicine and self-defence. For an hour and a half, classes of 20 to 25 discussed their values concerning these subjects, and listened to lectures by group leaders.

FEDERAL GRANT
A \$2,000 grant from the federal Secretary of State enabled organizers to attract top-name group leaders including Toronto's Community Development Officer Margaret Bryce, program manager at the Ministry of Energy, Sandra Kerr, and work activity project coordinator for Peel Social Services Margie Bakewell.

Judith Golden, the sexuality awareness group leader, encouraged her class to discuss their personal definitions of such terms as sexuality and sensuality.

"I often think we're at a different place than we think we are sexually," she said. "We can change."

Mrs. Golden distributed statements of sexual stereotypes among small groups, asking what validity they have in our society. Women were surprised to learn how great an effect outdated beliefs have on our way of thinking.

Teresa Green challenged her group to learn the Wen-Du method of self-defence recommended by the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre. Ms. Green said that our attitudes are extremely important in avoiding violent attacks.

Over a third of the ladies who took part in the Holistic Medicine workshop requested that Dr. Yvonne Verbeeten become their regular doctor. Dr. Verbeeten's popularity with group members was because of "her common sense approach to women's problems."

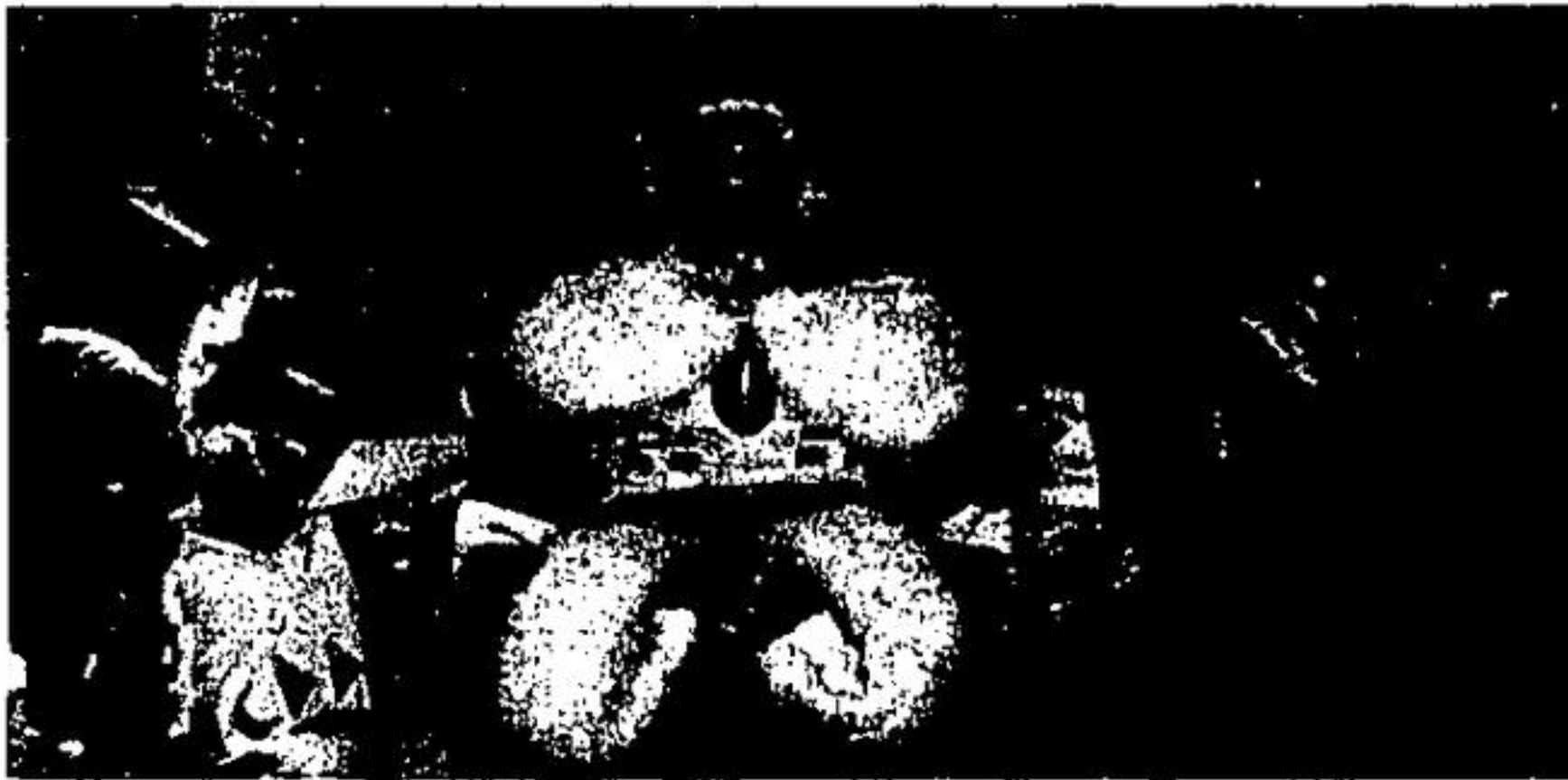
DISMISS WOMEN
"Most doctors dismiss women after a certain age, and don't take us seriously," a participant commented.

The highlight of Sandra Kerr's workshop on Strategies For Career Development was a film called "You Pack Your Own Clute". The movie encouraged lengthy discussion, in which the instructor related her personal struggle to overcome her fears of skydiving. She said that fear and risk are at opposite ends of a spectrum and you must take risks to overcome fear.

The film asserted that you cannot blame circumstances for your behavior. If you make a change in attitude, your behavior will automatically change. "You've got to visualize yourself doing something to actually do it," said the film's director, Dr. Eden Rowland.

Other films such as "Yes I Can", showing women in non-traditional careers, "Taking Our Bodies Back" picturing a live birth and an abortion, and "Patricia's Moving Picture" demonstrating the mid-life crises, were shown over lunch hour.

The day concluded with an



Some members of the University Women's Club of Georgetown stooped to pose as men during the entertainment portion of Women Aware '81. This colonial gentleman (left) warns his woman to mend her ways. Eskimos began the tale of the history of women in Canada, singing the songs of the land of ice and snow, under bodies posed as igloos.

entertainment program, written and produced by Lyndsay Thom where Members of the University Women Club performed a pageant about the history of Canadian women, from the prehistoric to the present day.

"I'm happy that I've met these women. I'm going to go to some of these people who can help me to get a better job," a participant commented.

Contact with other women in similar situations made the day a plus for most participants.

The Secretary of State has

offered further grants for continuing workshops if there is a proven demand. The enthusiastic response to Saturday's session should prove to the government the need for women to share their experiences.

"Men go to the bars, but women do not get a chance to get together outside the home," one woman said.

The next event sponsored by the University Women's Club of Georgetown will be an historical house tour, in support of the Library and Cultural Centre building fund June 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person.



Cara Hamilton, Rodger Murray and Connie Fong of Harrison Public School challenge other students to compete against them in the Georgetown District YM-YWCA's Walk-a-Jog-a-Thon Saturday. The kids are confident that this radio and record player will be theirs when prizes are awarded for the most money collected. Any takers? Registration takes place 9 to 11 a.m. at the Fairgrounds.

(Herald photo)

YMCA holds springtime fund-raiser

There are grand prizes available for the person in each age category to raise the most funds in the Georgetown District YMCA's Walk-a-Jog-a-Thon this Saturday.

Sponsor sheets are available at McDonald's, Dairy Queen and Wendy's Restaurants, the Georgetown library and the Y office at St. Andrew's United Church on Mountainview Road South.

Top prize for the eight and under category is a record player, nine to 12 a radio, and 13 to 18 a gift certificate from North Halton Sports. Other awards include buttons and coupons for treats at McDonald's, Dairy Queen and Wendy's.

Proceeds go to Y projects around the world.

Acton resident called to bar association



In ceremonies at O'Keefe Centre April 10 Carolyn North Terry, daughter of Finlay and Margaret Mackenzie, of Churchill Road South in Acton, was called to the bar. A former pupil of Acton and Georgetown High Schools, she will be working with the Canadian Law Information Council, Toronto.

Halton Hills Coun. Russ Miller said, "It's a better way to look after the people we have to look after."



Among the main participants in Saturday's Women Aware conference organized by the University Women's Club of Georgetown were (left to right) program organizer Barb Sheln, National Action Committee secretary Chaviva Hosek, who was guest speaker, and conference convenor Gail Rutherford.

(Herald photo)

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Ian Deans addresses supporters

Riding's NDP plans four-year campaign

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald Special

Four years of Progressive Conservative majority government in Ontario will provide the New Democratic Party with plenty of ammunition to convince voters to change allegiances by the time the next election rolls around, a federal MP told local party members Monday.

Hamilton Mountain MP Ian Deans advised members of the Halton-Burlington NDP Riding Association to use the intervening years finding out what happened to make former supporters turn on the party March 19 and to point out the deficiencies that occur through the coming period which hurt the average citizen.

Mr. Deans urged members to spend time regularly discussing the party with neighbors, friends and fellow workers in order to point out problems in everyday living resulting from government decisions, so that people are increasingly aware of who's to blame when things go wrong and how the NDP could help.

"Would you go out and do it if I promised you you'd win if you did?" he said. "Well, I can't promise that. But I can guarantee you won't win if you don't do it."

Halton-Burlington is midway between two other communities he recently visited, Mr. Deans said. In Hamilton East, a long-time NDP stronghold, party members have been winning so long they're complacent and difficult to motivate.

In Chicago, where he addressed a large gathering of businessmen and politicians interested in the possible establishment of a third party in the American political system, such an idea is so novel the group isn't even dreaming of winning yet.

Halton-Burlington is midway between. The NDP isn't

winning here yet, but has a good base established and, with constant work, a win is possible in the next election.

Since the March election, Mr. Deans said he has been trying to determine where the party failed to reach people. He has questioned whether it is party policy itself, whether the policy was not well-presented or whether the method of approaching people was wrong.

Mr. Deans questions why former supporters let the party down. He advised party members to talk to them and determine what offended them about the party.

He questioned whether people have forgotten what life was like before the introduction of such things as Medicare. If that's the case, party members need to begin reminding voters of past problems, he said.

"We've got to take a hard look at what we are, who we represent and what we want done," Mr. Deans said. "Then we have three years to work on getting that message across."

Formerly a provincial member of Parliament for the NDP, Mr. Deans was defeated in his bid for the party's Ontario leadership by outgoing Michael Cassidy.

Chris Cutler's already on the hustings

Any resident of Halton-Burlington riding who thinks the provincial election campaigns are over for a few years is in for a surprise.

Chris Cutler isn't about to let his New Democratic Party fade away between now and the next election and area residents can expect to hear more and more from him in coming months.

Mr. Cutler, who ran as the party's local candidate, plans to focus more attention on regional government and the tax reforms he discussed during the campaign in the near future.

"We're the only party who can continue to hammer away on the issues between elections and not lose our credibility," he said. "And I intend to do just that."

to kick off this campaign in about six weeks and residents can expect to keep hearing about the party at regular intervals thereafter. Speaking to members of the Halton-Burlington NDP riding association at their annual meeting in Milton Monday, he said while their party lost ground in the March election, it didn't slip as badly as in some neighboring ridings.

Mr. Cutler was elected president of the riding association. Vice-president is Ron Ness, treasurer Sharon Foster, membership secretary Lynn Courtney, and the secretary's position is vacant. Area vice-presidents are Burlington, Tom Moore, Milton, Bev Wackley, Acton, Al Foster and Georgetown, John Nichols.

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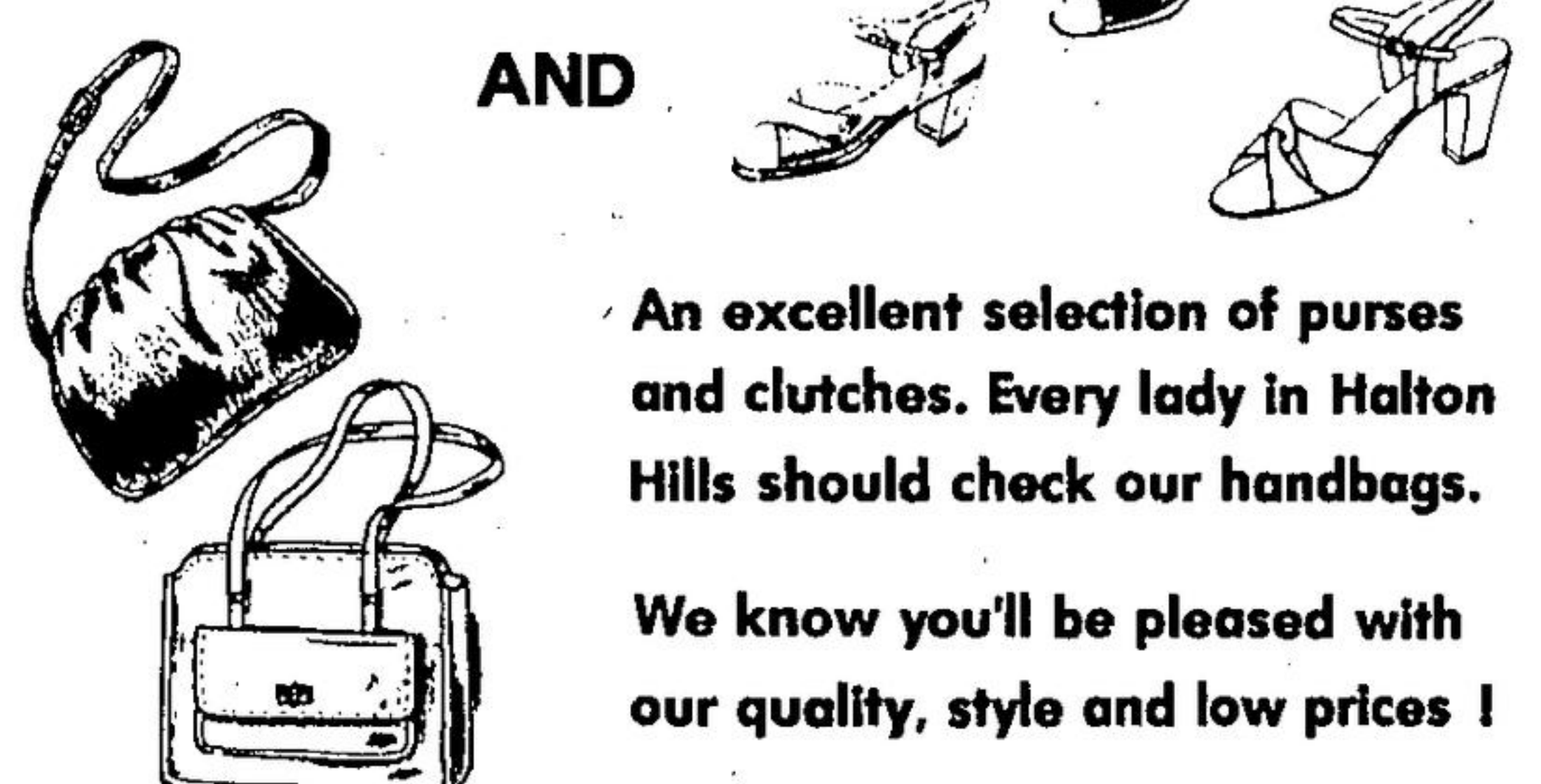
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