

# Women's Day celebration set

by Gwen Shervington

On March 8, 1857 women garment and textile workers on New York's Lower East Side marched in protest of their working conditions. In 1908 on the same day, women were marching again protesting the sweat shops, child labor and intolerable working conditions which had not improved for women in the garment/textile trade. Today March 8 is celebrated around the world as INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, a day of celebrating womanhood and a time to concentrated on issues that affect women's lives.

In 1975, the United States declared 1976 to 1985 as the Decade for Women. The purposes of this delcaration was to raise global consciousness of the problems and issues of women, and to come up with plans for the advancement of women around the world. The international conference during the Decade were successful in bringing women together to discuss their needs and in allowing them to become acquainted with the needs of their sisters in other parts of the world.

Bringing women together to discuss our needs is an important step in the struggle for obtaining full equality of women in social, political economic and health spheres. Although the Decade for Women has officially ended, the progress and achievements of the conference should not be allowed to lose momentum. Finding and implementing solutions to women's needs and problems cannot be accomplished in one decade. This work has to be continued for decades to come.

A citywide conference is being planned in recognition of International Women's Day as a continuation of the work started during the Decade, particularly at the Nairobi Conference. The theme of the week long conference will be "Sisterhood is Global" The focus will be on the issues that affect women around the world. The workshops will concentrate on those factors that link and seperate us internationally.

Women in the U.S. lack information from and about women in other parts of the world. By being

## Author seeks material

Lesbian Editor seeks material for book exploring friendships between lesbians who are not lovers. Discuss play, work, growing-up, coming-out, separations, family bonds, commitment, betrayal, humor, aging, raising children, affection etc. Send life stories, drawings/graphics, photos, headlines, taped conversations, essays, poems, songs, prayers etc. to Caroljean Pint, 1050 Title Insurance Building, 400 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55401

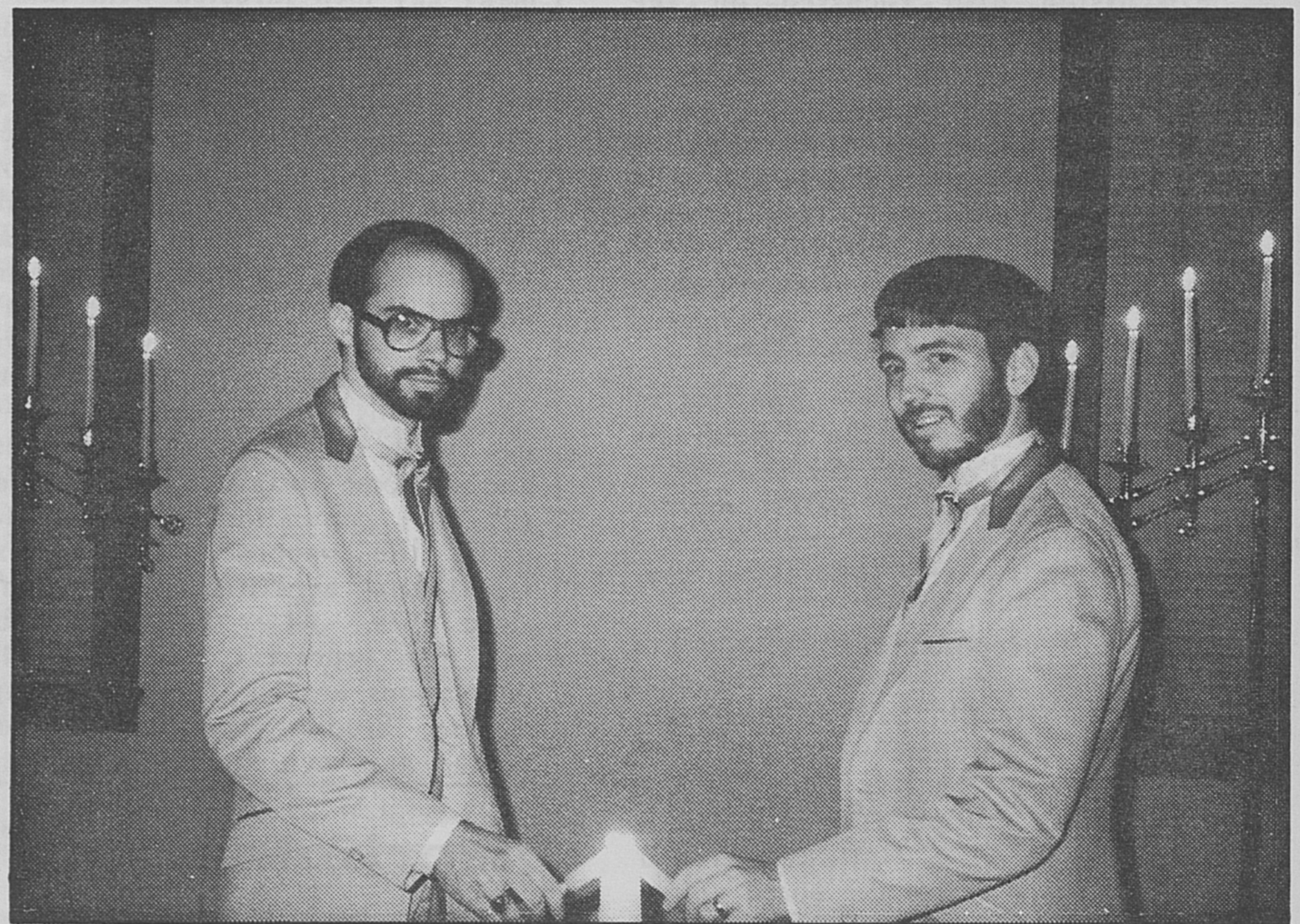
uninformed we consciously contribute to the exlpoitation of our sisters. Sytematic discrimination is faced by women everywhere. Women in the U.S. must take responsibility for the ways in which this country's policies affect the lives of women elsewhere. An example is the habit of the U.S. to drop unsafe contraceptive devices in Third World countries. Our activism must include organizing against such abuses.

By being aware of common issues and respectful of our different realities, we can begin to understand and help each other. A multi-faceted global vision is the politics of the future. Feminism must work beyond national

boundaries and address issues which affect all women's lives. We all have fundamental needs for food, water and shelter. We are all affected by rape, sexual harassment, racism, sexism, occupational hazards, repression of lesbians, domestic violence, war, and the denial of reproductive rights. It's time to work towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

This Sisterhood is Global conference will be a spectacular event in celebration of international Women/Sisterhood.

**See schedule, p. 8.**



## Couple celebrates one year

One year ago this month Brendan Hadash and Alan Hultquist were joined together in the first official Service of Holy Union to take place in the New Hampshire/Vermont District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The service was held at the Universalist Society of West Burke and was

officiated by the Executive Secretary of the district.

On 28 June 1984, the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association voted to officially sanction the union serves for gay and lesbian couples, the only denomination besides MCC to do so.

## Schlafly visits Vermont

by Dian Kendrick

The predictable Phyllis Schlafly came to Vermont Feb. 18 to begin her attack on the proposed Vermont Equal Rights Amendment, which will be on the ballot here Nov. 4.

The Vermont ERA, which has been passed by two sepatately elected sessions of the state legislature, states: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the State

of Vermont or any of its political subdivisions on account of the sex of the individual." The language of the amendment is very close to the language of the proposed federal Equal Rights Amendment, which ran out of time in June, 1982, before it could be passed by the requisite 38 state legislatures. Recent polls in Vermont have shown that a large majority of

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