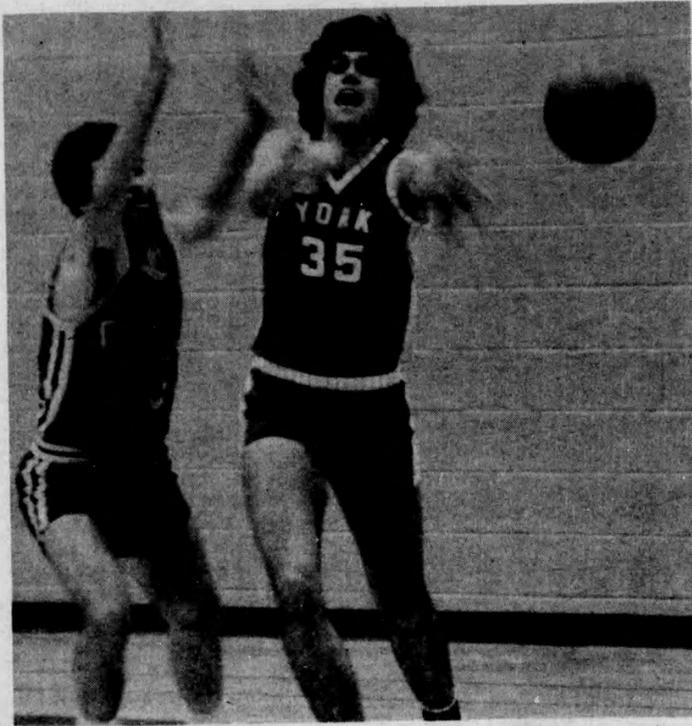


Excalibur

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Lonnie Ramati of the York Yeomen basketball team, battles for the ball with a Golden Geel Saturday. York waltzed to an easy 94-49 victory.

Parrott under fire for grad grant cuts

By Agnes Kruchio

It will be harder than ever for poor people to get into professions like law and medicine because of proposed restrictions in student aid, according to a brief presented to minister of colleges and universities, Dr. Harry Parrott, earlier this week, in his Queen's Park office.

The brief, backed by 18 professional student organizations across the province, says the new proposals will make it especially difficult for less affluent students to attend professional schools because of the high fees, and because the new regulations in student aid cut off students from grants after four years. Faculties such as medicine, dentistry, optometry, and law all require previous university training before admitting students.

The new regulations will discourage those who already have



Harry Parrott: "I can't be all things to all men".

difficulty in going to a post-secondary institution, said S.M. Beck, Dean of Osgoode Hall Law School.

"It is a very long process to be called to the bar," he said, adding that the year-long bar-admission course, during which a student cannot earn money, is already a burden to many students.

While not having any hard evidence at hand, Dr. Edward Mustard, dean of the faculty of medicine at McMaster University said, "our instinct is that the new policies will have the effect of keeping lower socio-economic groups out of the professional schools.

"I would be very concerned, if that should happen," he said. The medical schools will keep a close check on whether or not such a development takes place."

Under the new regulations, a student is eligible for aid for a period of eight terms (four years, in practice). After that time he is only eligible for a Canada student loan of \$1,800 at most.

Professional students are especially affected, states the brief to Parrott, because a high percentage of them (up to 87%, depending on the year and the faculty) depend on grants and loans to continue their studies.

"It's ridiculous to think that a student can make ends meet on \$1,800 a year," said John Rowan, President of U of T's medical student association. "My tuition fees alone are \$1,024 and that does not include books or equipment."

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Prostitution; "the oldest injustice"

By Scott Clayton

Prostitution should be decriminalized.

This is the underlying theme of COYOTE (Cast Off Your Old Tired Ethics), whose founder, ex-hooker Margo St. James visited York on Tuesday. St. James, 40, is a campaigner for the rights of prostitutes, an author, and a licensed private eye.

She came into prostitution through a misunderstanding with the police, who misinterpreted her frequent sexual encounters with men as being financial relationships. Unable to shake her criminal record, which resulted from the judge assuming that a knowledge of the word 'trick' was grounds for conviction, she was forced for financial reasons into prostitution.

Once our society accepts the reality of the oldest profession, as have many of the world's countries, from Cuba to Denmark, then we can begin to give prostitutes the protection from harassment and exploitation they deserve as citizens and members of the labour force servicing a demand.

This is the basic platform of COYOTE which under the leadership of St. James, has been organizing hookers in the United States and Canada and has formulated a plan of action for the decriminalization of prostitution.

The meeting was opened by York Law Professor Louise Arbour who outlined the legal aspects of prostitution in Canada. Performing sexual acts for money is not itself a criminal offence in this country, but the act of soliciting, or as Margo St. James put it, saying "where's the

money" instead of "I love you", is a criminal offence subject to a summary conviction. The maximum sentence is a \$500 fine and or a six month jail term.

Arbour also stated that offences related to prostitution, including soliciting, keeping a common bawdy house, procuring and living off the avails of prostitution, are not under the same section of the criminal code as sexual offences. Rather they are classified with gaming and betting laws. The enforcement of the laws are under provincial jurisdiction, and hence penalties vary from province to province.

St. James emphasized the contradiction and double-standard that prevails in the attitude of society to prostitution. She hopes that it will be possible to "close the gap between woman on a pedestal, and in the gutter." She said that one in a hundred women in the US and Canada is involved in prostitution, primarily because of the shortage of jobs for woman and the poor pay in the ones that do exist.

Sex for hire is a service used by many politicians and respectable citizens, but the refusal to acknowledge the rights of the women they call 'whores' leaves them open to persecution and exploitation. They can gain little support from the police if they are raped, assaulted or robbed. They are used by politicians to further their careers through crackdown campaigns, although St. James pointed out that the fact that body-rub parlors are licensed by the city means that the "state is the pimp" in such cases.

Related to this St. James claims that men "use Chargex to get laid, so in fact, the credit companies are living off the avails of prostitution, but no one goes after them."

The hookers must function in a male world, and St. James says that they lose up to 90% of their earnings to taxi-drivers, bartenders, doormen, and pimps.

Margo St. James is in favour of decriminalizing prostitution as opposed to legalizing it.

Legalization would make prostitution a profession as opposed to an economic occupation and it could result in the zoning of areas where prostitution is permitted. This would make the landlord the pimps, and St. James believes that prostitution is more of a "cottage industry."

Hookers are the scapegoats in the relationship if they are caught, and prostitution, says St. James, is "not the oldest profession, but the oldest injustice."

Judith Ramirez, of the Wages for Housework Campaign, with the support of COYOTE, argued that housewives and prostitutes have many similarities in their relation to the male world. She believes that our male dominated society attempts to keep women isolated, and

that in a society that forces women to sell their sexuality to gain a measure of economic security, they must unite.

A sister organization to COYOTE has been formed here in Toronto known as BEAVER (Better End All Vicious Erotic Repression). Their goals are to lobby the legislature for decriminalization, inform the public of the issues, and to motivate the prostitutes of Toronto to improve their lot.



Two escaped inmates of the reserved reading room, take advantage of their brief moments of freedom with a bit of ad hoc tobogganning last Tuesday.

Anti-cutbacks pickets to greet Roberts

By Paul Stuart

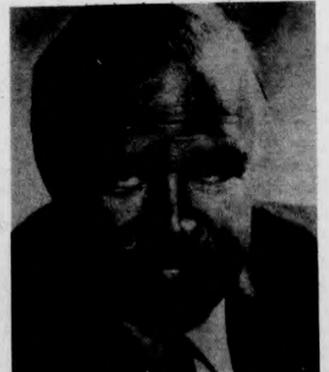
When former Ontario Premier John Roberts is inaugurated as University Chancellor today (at 5 p.m. in Osgoode Hall's Moot Court) he'll be getting an unexpected reception.

Members of the Graduate Assistants' Association and the York University Faculty Association are going to use the inauguration as an occasion to protest cutbacks to education.

Mr. Roberts was Premier from 1961 to 1971, when he was succeeded by William Davis who had been education minister in the Roberts cabinet.

"Because John Roberts is a figure of national prominence, the inauguration is a good opportunity to bring the problems of the universities to the community at large," said Leslie Sanders, Chief Steward of the GAA, on Tuesday.

No speakers are planned for the demonstration, which is slated for 4:30 outside Osgoode Hall. But said Sanders "hopefully there'll be a skit" to liven things up.



John Roberts

ROSENWURST No 3



A FOOTNOTE