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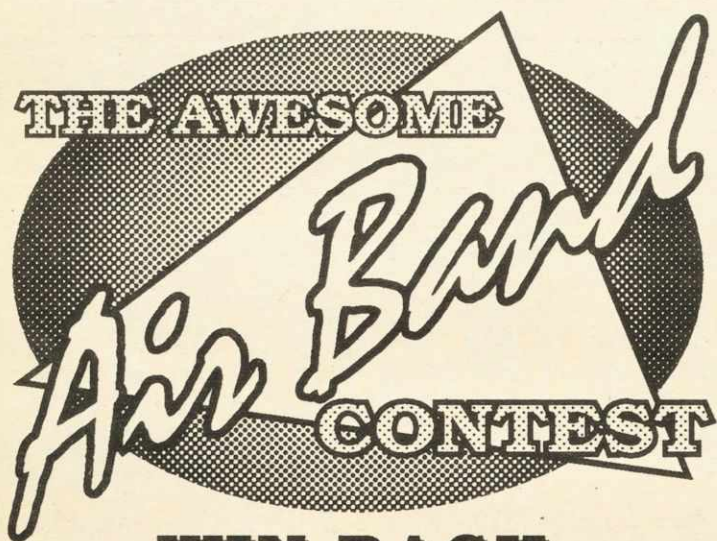
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opinions

NAFTA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

and levels of toxic chemical dumping often 6,000 times US standards. The toxic chemicals in that area are causing babies to be born without brains. The rivers flow north from this region, causing some of these cases to occur in Brownsville, Texas, which has helped stimulate the rising movement against NAFTA in the United States.

A Mexican employee described NAFTA by saying that in 'free' trade, Canadians and Americans are free to lose their jobs, while Mexicans are free to work in poor conditions for low pay. It is clear why large corporations, including those large corporations which own the majority of the media, are in

favour of free trade. It will bring more profits to them. What is not clear is why Canadians would support such a deal. The idea used to sell this is that if large corporations become more competitive, we will all benefit with jobs from the increased economic activity in the "trickle-down" effect. The problem with this is that it simply doesn't work. The vast majority of new jobs are created by small businesses, operated by people who live in the local area and therefore are more inclined to care about the well-being of the local area. Relying on the 'top-down' method of development has caused poverty and powerlessness in many countries of the world, because it takes the control of resources out of the hands of the local community.

A survey of 100,000 Canadian homes conducted by the Council of

Canadians suggests that 79 per cent of Canadians are opposed to the first Canada-US Free Trade Agreement, and 78 per cent of Canadians want the newly elected government to block NAFTA. It is not too late in either case. The enacting legislation of NAFTA was rammed through Parliament by the outgoing government, but there is time for our newly elected government to correct this mistake before the starting date of January 1, 1994. The Canada-US Free Trade Agreement has a 6-month cancellation option. There is another mechanism in place, called the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which we used before these agreements, and which we can return to. Our newly elected representatives need to hear from Canadians about this.

Wayne Groszko

Harassment affects us all

"Sexual Harassment is defined according to the perception of the recipient. When the behaviour is challenged, and is then repeated, then this is a definite case of sexual harassment."

This definition is within the accordance of the law under the Canadian Human Rights Commission. It is an official statement encompassing all Canadians, whether within the workplace environment or the academic environment.

How do we as students apply this blanket statement to ourselves? The answer is that all of us must understand when our personal bounds have been crossed. We must make ourselves heard when we have been put in a compromising situation. If that behaviour is repeated after we have made ourselves clear on the discomfort it causes, we then know this is sexual harassment.

Here is an examination of two true cases which differ in their sexual impropriety in varying degrees.

Case 1: A female student is in a tutorial session class where everyone, including the professor, is male. The professor, upon hearing that one of his former students is studying under another professor, jokes, "Oh, you mean Professor Foreskin, heh heh, just kidding." The female student feels embarrassed and outnumbered but is afraid to speak up. She feels put on the spot.

Is this sexual harassment?

No, because the student has not made it clear to the professor that he

has overstepped his bounds. Had she voiced her objection, and he then repeated a similar lewd joke, it would then clearly be sexual harassment.

Case 2: A female student approaches a male professor to discuss the class. After they discuss the class, he says, "You are an extremely stunning woman. Would you like to go out to dinner with me?" The student refuses and explains that she'd rather keep things on a friendship basis. Throughout their dealings he continues to tell her how beautiful he thinks she is, and how he wishes they could be more than friends. She continues to refuse to him explaining

*How do we
educate
everyone?*

that all she desires is his friendship. She is afraid for her grades as she continues to dodge his advances, but she fears cutting off the friendship would cause animosity between them.

Is this sexual harassment?

Yes, because the student has made it clear to the professor that she is not receptive to his romantic feelings toward her. Despite this he continues the behaviour.

So where do we go from here? It is clear that sexual harassment persists in the university community. It is clear that it causes emotional distress to the

victim. Ultimately though, sexual harassment is everyone's problem, as it reflects poorly upon the academic environment and the mere mention of it can cause animosity between the sexes. The subject of sexual harassment should not put men on the defensive and women on the offensive. It should be an issue that the academic community as a whole addresses appropriately. Appropriate action is a direct result of proper education. Students, faculty, and staff must be aware of what exactly sexual harassment is.

How do we educate everyone? It doesn't have to be too difficult. To start, it could be as simple as having a sexual harassment officer, and/or members of a sexual harassment committee going to 1000-level classes the first week of classes and defining sexual harassment in its exact terms. It is a simple way to help deal with a serious problem. However, no matter what method of education used, this issue can only be followed through successfully if everyone in the academic community addresses their share of this problem.

The good news is that a committee called the Students Against Sexual Harassment (SASH) is being formed to support victims and possibly lobby for change. To find out when and where to come to a meeting or just tell your story anonymously, call Jennifer (429-2103) or Elizabeth, (429-5933).

Elizabeth Pratt



1595 Barrington Street

LOVERBOY

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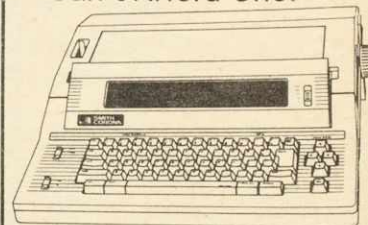
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