

COLUMN

The dissent of (wo)man

by Sue Pennypacker

Upon the inception of this column, I should have set out my goals, and my idea of feminism. I decided instead, and perhaps foolishly, to begin with a general overview of some of the issues facing women today.

I want to present the York community with an alternate perspective, a second look at the issues which we all face as members of this community and our society as a whole. To me, the title of this column is a reflection of my desire to examine society from a feminist point of view.

Any criticism of this column's title is well taken. I must respect the opinions of various women's organizations on campus; not only because of their significant contribution to the position of women on campus, but because we are working towards the same goals. I feel, however, that I must explain what the title means to me.

First, the title of this column is a play on the work of Charles Darwin — *The Descent of Man*. The word descent is exchanged for a word with

a different spelling and meaning. In addition, the letters "Wo" are added to the word "man," in order to create the word woman, and to correct Darwin's neglect of women. I found it ironic that in a title dealing with the evolution of human beings, Darwin failed to include women. Although gender neutral terms were not considered during this period of time, the term human did exist.

While the literal meaning of the column's title does not deal with the descent of women, a phonetic sounding-out of the title indicates an awareness of women's growth in our society.

The separation of the letters (Wo) from the word man was also done on purpose. When writing, I use parentheses to further explain and emphasize an idea. While I can understand the reasoning behind the criticism that parentheses around the letters "Wo" marginalizes women, this is not the intention of the parentheses. In fact, the intended meaning is exactly opposite to this interpretation. Instead, the parentheses are meant to emphasize, and criticize the fact that the word man is often used (incorrectly) to mean

human or person.

Read literally, the title means two things. It suggests that feminists (who are generally — but not always — women) reject a patriarchal society and world view. A feminist perspective examines society in a different way. This perspective dissents from the phallogocentric view which dominates our values and beliefs.

On the other hand, the title can also mean that the male perspective ignores the female experience. The position of women is often trivialized and rejected either tacitly or openly by our society. Essentially, the two words are separated by parentheses to emphasize the struggle between feminism and patriarchy.

Perhaps, while reading this column, you are saying to yourself, "Yeah right, four (or five if you count woman and man) words doesn't mean all this!"

You must realize, however, that a small phrase can have many meanings. I feel that the title of this column (on careful reading — using my interpretation of course) accurately portrays my goals and perspective. This does not mean, however, that I am not open to change.

Bold predictions for 1991

by Brett Gellert

It's my job to keep the public well informed. I know most of you don't believe that. I don't take it very seriously myself, but what the hell.

The best way to understand current events is to know about them before they happen. So I sat down, and with the aid of several litres of Renegade Beer (an attempt at beer that a friend brought back with him from Lakehead University) I made a few predictions. For those of you who are slightly interested: Renegade Beer closely resembles the stuff that they use to fix pot holes, but it isn't too bad if you mix it with enough Bacardi Rum.

Anyway, here are the predictions:
— The big news on the political front is the tragic death of George Bush. Anyone who remembers the ex-President's tough personal stand against eating broccoli (absolutely true) will be surprised at his ironic death. "The president died while eating a salad. He is believed to have choked on a piece of broccoli," a political aid will tell a press room full of reporters, tears rolling down his cheeks.

— President-elect Dan Quayle immediately creates a bill declaring broccoli a lethal weapon and tries to gain popularity by showing that he can pat his head and rub his stomach at the same time.

— On the Canadian political scene, Joe Clark in a rare moment of comic spontaneity during a House Of Commons vote declares that his name is Chuck Q. Farley.

— Prime Minister Mulroney creates a new food tax that will help to fight off the recession. Mulroney claims Canadians will be much better off in the long run. Three weeks later, during a visit to a shopping mall, the PM is found buried under a mound of rib roasts, bananas, and non-dairy creamers. A mob of cheering shoppers say, with a great deal of sincerity, that they have "no idea about what could have happened, honest."

— People in Ontario are stunned to learn that Premier Bob Rae's nickname in high school was "Boner."

— Margaret Thatcher steps from the political ring to the boxing ring. The "Iron Lady" defeats Holyfield in the first round. She later claims that her arms feel good and that she is bulking up to take on the now 600 lbs. heavy George Foreman.

— Dan Quayle in an effort to



change the image of the United States changes his country's name to "Happy Land."

— On the sexual front. All men claiming Sexual Performance Anxiety from wearing condoms are vindicated in the eyes of their snickering lovers when a group of researchers prove that latex causes impotence.

— Madonna in an attempt to revitalize her image makes an appearance on Sesame Street — Big Bird is found several days later wearing a torpedo bra and making lude comments to a bunch of sailors.

— Sly Stallone in an effort to give

his career more momentum claims he is getting back to the basics of movie making. His new movie, shot in black and white and with no sound, features an ex-boxer who becomes a soldier of fortune.

— Arsenio Hall is beaten to a pulp by Sean Penn after Hall keeps patting Penn on the back saying, "I love your work, man."

— Sean Penn is immediately called in to put a stop to Roseanne Barr and Tom Arnold's repulsive campaign to show they are just "regular folks." After Penn is beaten to a pulp by Barr, network executives put in a call to Margaret Thatcher.

— Last but not least. A change in the vocabulary of Canadians helps to show our strong national identity around the world. Due to a severe dislike of Finance Minister Michael Wilson, the phrase "kicked in the testicles" (or the near equivalent) becomes "kicked in the Wilsons."

Casino Nite

To help kick off the new year, York's business students are putting together the 4th annual Casino Nite with missing children in mind.

As in previous years, proceeds from Casino Nite will be donated to charity.

This year, the undergraduate and graduate business councils decided to help an organization that had not been given much attention before — Child Find.

Child Find is an organization that searches for missing children through investigation and networking with municipalities.

Missing children is a rapidly growing problem in Canada. Most recently was the case of Toronto's Andrea Atkinson.

It is in the hope that the proceeds from Casino Nite will help recover missing children before tragedies, such as Andrea's, occur.

Casino Nite '91 is hoped to attract some 300 students, and generate substantial funds needed for Child Find.

In past years, the event has been a successful charity fundraiser. This can be attributed to the fact that casinos are pretty scarce (controlled by provincial law). In fact, there is only one year-round casino in Canada — in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

York's Casino Nite is a unique and pleasant change to regular social events.

Students will be able to try their luck at one of 20 Blackjack tables, or take a chance on a spin of the Wheel of Fortune, including horse races, crown & anchor, and more.

Music, cash bar, food items, and hundreds of people will also be on hand.

With inflation and GST burdens, the Councils decided to give students a break by maintaining past years' admission fee of \$5 and giving them \$2 worth in gambling chips. Door prizes will also be awarded.

Casino Nite '91 will be held at Bethune Dining Hall on Thursday, January 31 from 8 pm - 1 am.



The Toronto Art Therapy Institute and the Institute for Arts and Human Development at the Lesley College Graduate School in Cambridge Mass. have completed arrangements for a co-operative program of studies leading to a masters degree in the expressive arts therapies. Students and graduates of the Toronto Art Therapy Institute 2 year diploma program, are eligible to apply to the Lesley College Masters degree program in the Expressive Art Therapies where their graduate-level training at the Toronto Art Therapy Institute will be given credit as part of the Lesley Masters program.

To complete their Masters degree, students spend two summers at Lesley College for 2 five week periods. If you would like to receive further information about this joint effort, please contact our office and a staff person will be pleased to talk to you.

Student Workshops: Jan. 26, Feb. 23, Mar. 30, Apr. 27.

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Official Languages Monitor* Program

Under a program funded by the Department of the Secretary of State of Canada, the Ministry of Education in conjunction with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, invites students to apply for the position of second-language monitors (French or English) for the academic year 1991-92.

Monitors (Part-time)

Official-languages monitors must be full-time postsecondary students usually studying in a province other than their own. They will work between six and eight hours per week under the supervision of a second-language teacher. Some francophone monitors will be assigned to French schools outside Quebec. For eight months participation in the program, they will receive at least \$3,500 and one return trip between their home and the host province.

To be eligible for part-time monitor duties, students must have completed at least one year of postsecondary studies or will have completed such studies by the end of the 1990-91 academic year.

Monitors (Full-time)

Full-time monitors must have completed at least one year of postsecondary studies. Duties consist of assisting second-language teachers (French or English) in rural or semi-urban areas usually in a province other than their own for 25 hours per week. Some francophone monitors will be assigned to French schools outside Quebec. Monitors will receive up to \$10,000 for 10 months of participation. They will also receive two return trips per year between their home province and the host province. They may also receive a settling-in allowance of up to \$770 and a maximum of \$1,110 for commuting expenses within the host province.

Application forms and program brochures may be obtained from placement offices in postsecondary institutions, or at the address below:

Manager, Monitor Program
Ministry of Education
Education Liaison and Exchange Branch
14th Floor, Mowat Block, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1L2

Duly completed application forms must arrive at the address indicated in the information package, postmarked no later than February 15, 1991. Qualified candidates will be required to attend an interview.

(*applies to men and women equally)

