

Mock rape trial draws crowd

LONDON (CUP) - A mock rape trial designed to show the merits of proposed new federal rape legislation, played to a capacity crowd at the University of Western Ontario.

The idea of a trial, co-sponsored by the Sexual Assault Crisis Centre and the UWO Women's Law Caucus, grew from bill C-71 presently

before the Canadian parliament

The jury for the mock trial was chosen from the audience and directed not to convict if there remained any doubt in their minds.

The mock judge concluded the session often refusing to allow the complainant's past history to be presented in court. The defense however, had rais-

ed reasonable doubt in some juror's minds resulting in a hung jury and no verdict.

The new bill stipulates that if the defence in a rape trial plans to introduce the victim's past sexual activity into the case they must first give written notice to the court and the prosecution in a reasonable length of time before the trial date. The judge must then decide whether the evidence is necessary to the case, before it is presented to the public or the jury.

Under current legislation the defence may bring the victim's past before the jury, although the judge may at any time strike it from the record and instruct the jury to disregard it.

The reasoning behind the new legislation is to protect the credibility and the reputation of the victim.

In the past, defence attorneys have often used past sexual history to raise questions in the juror's minds as to the validity of the victim's story.

Swamy to visit U

What really happened last summer when, accused of illegal electioneering practices, Indira Gandhi declared a "national emergency" in India and began to jail her political opponents?

One of the men involved in organizing an underground movement against the Gandhi government since that "emergency" will be on campus Wednesday and Friday to talk to people about the Indian situation.

Subrananiam Swamy, economist and member of the Indian Parliament, will discuss "Dictatorship versus democracy in India" on March

3rd at 7:30 p.m. in Humanities Lecture I and on March 5th at 7:30 p.m. in Tory Lecture II.

Dr. Swamy was an associate professor at Harvard University and Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi.

He has written several articles with Nobel Laureate P. Samuelson and has published in several prestigious economic journals.

The meeting will be non-partisan. Swamy was one of the initial leaders in J.P. Narayan-led opposition movement before the emergency began and will be speaking on behalf of all the opposition parties in India.

Sexual Assault Line

Information-gathering line about sexual assaults and similar incidents

432-3225

Relating your experiences anonymously will aid the work of the Committee on Sexual Assaults on Campus.

This is not an emergency line.

Surviving with the law

The University of Calgary's infant faculty of law is moving rapidly into the field of community education with the development of a Legal Survival Kit for high school students.

With a \$9,000 grant from the Alberta Law Foundation and co-operation from practising

lawyers and U of C's department of communications media, the faculty of law is producing a booklet and videotape package dealing with the legal implications of activities such as drug and liquor abuse and driving while intoxicated. As well, it covers such civil matters as the capacity of a minor to enter contracts or to leave home, and his rights with regard to parental and teacher discipline.

Adopting a factual rather than a judgmental approach, the faculty has attempted to provide high school students with a guide to their rights and information on the legal process - what happens if they are arrested, how to contact a lawyer, what protection they have if they are innocent, etc.

"There's practically no information of this sort available in one place, nor in a form that's readily understandable to the layman," says Dean John McLaren of the faculty of law. "Students want to know what happens if they have problems with the law."

"Although it's not judgmental, it should be quite clear to the students that if they don't want the whole hassle of getting charged, booked and convicted, they will think twice about getting involved in criminal activities."

The Legal Survival Kit is expected to be completed in late April. Copies of the illustrated booklet will be supplied to every high school student in the Calgary area and the videotape package will be made available to all high schools.

The videotapes, highlighting sections of the booklet, consist of dramatized scenes of legal problems students might encounter and comments by a police representative, a judge, and a lawyer. The scenes are enacted by students from Central Memorial High School.

Help required

The General Faculties Council Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for student vacancies on the following committees:

ad hoc Committee on Prevention of Sexual Assault on Campus

ad hoc Committee on Restructuring the Office of Student Affairs

1 grad student
2 undergrad students

Those who have suggestions for nominations or are interested in serving on the above committees are requested to contact the Secretary of the Nominating Committee, Mrs. L. Plaskitt, 1-15 University Hall, telephone 432-4715, by 12 noon Friday March 12, 1976.



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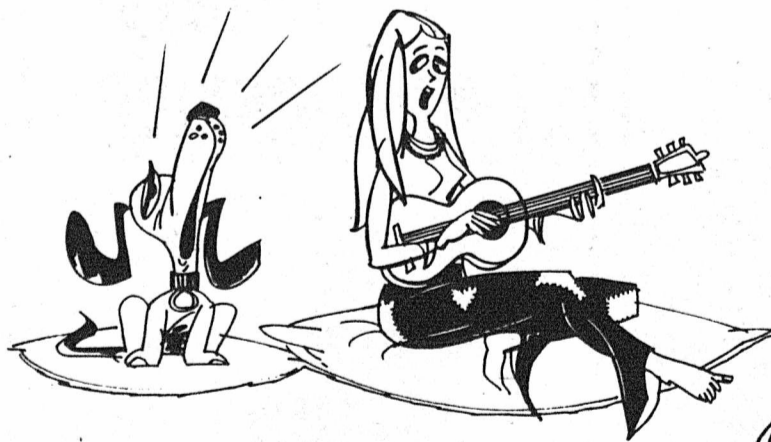
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