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No time for feminism

OTTAWA (CUP) — While critics within the ranks of the national Liberal party grumble the organization is "turning right", young Liberal women appear to be turning their backs on such left-leaning notions as feminism and the National Women's Liberal Commission.

Though more than a third of the delegates — 1,300 of 3,500 — to the National Liberal Convention in November were women, the great majority of the younger women delegates did not attend the commission's national meeting.

"The younger women don't feel there's a need for the women's commission," said Lynda Sorenson, the new president for the women's commission.

"University trained women especially are turning away from feminism because most of them have always been fairly independent economically," said Sorenson. "They have never faced discrimination like the older women. They have more stature and more ability to move in different circles."

Sorenson said the scheduling of the national meeting of the Young Liberals on the same day as the commission's meeting was "a frustrating conflict" for some young women. Most, however, chose to attend the Young Liberal meeting.

Kaz Flynn, youth liaison for party leader John Turner, said many young women "want to be in the

main flow" of the party. "Until the younger women get out into the workforce, they think they can do without a separate women's group," said Flynn.

Flynn said there is still a need for the women's commission. "I hope there won't be a need for it," said Flynn.

Some Liberals, however, see the commission as an anachronism.

"That's for the blue-hairs," said Bob Richardson, aide to Ontario Colleges and Universities Minister Greg Sarbara. "The women in this party are high profile. They just don't need their own group anymore."

Richardson said the Youth and Women's groups have turned into "power bases", used by party members to climb the ranks.

Mary Clancy, a professor at Mount Saint Vincent and Dalhousie Universities in Halifax and who was a candidate for the commission said for her women students "realization of the need for affirmative action and feminism comes later in life."

"I find they are so into working towards their degrees and they just don't have as much time for these issues," she said.

Sorenson said Liberal women are generally supportive of Turner, despite his poor reputation with women voters.

"The thing about Mr. Turner is, he's learned," said Sorenson. "And there is nothing better than a reformed chauvinist. He is no longer condescending."

Turner, who lost several political points during the 1984 federal election because of an infamous "bum-patting" incident, won applause by saying "this reformed bum-patter has come a long way in two years."



Educational erosion

By TOBY SANGER

Faculty at the University of Saskatchewan voted last night to move to a strike vote in their six-month-old contract negotiations with the administration.

Last week, full-time faculty at the university boycotted classes for one day to hold what they called a "study session".

Instead of just discussing the details of negotiations, partici-

pants talked about the erosion of post-secondary education due to underfunding and poor salaries, says Dalhousie Faculty Association president Marcia Ozier, who spoke at the session.

Professors talked about the future of education and the need for better funding — in particular, for higher salaries so that the teaching profession attracts the best students.

Ozier reports there was considerable anger and concern at meeting about the financial management of the university.

The session attracted over 400 professors, more than twice the number organizers expected.

"There was a sense of unity and spirit that came out that day that was remarkable to watch," says Ozier. "Faculty members showed that they shared each other's concerns about the future."

Carib-bops

By Miki Livit

Students,

the harbour ice flows down to Puerto Rico every January,
and returns again in March.

And all the pale, blue-green peaks

that ply past barracuda and dolphins

while the smug seals aboard are getting sun-tanned
while conducting yet another gunnery exercise

aimed at obliterating Vasques island,

are kept from melting by huge fleets of American ice-boats
—ice-boats aimed at keeping the Caribbean on ice.

It isn't pleasant to be frozen in the Caribbean

when so many perennial tourists are floating around
holding Marguerita's and Cokes,

and have their bodies' desires recreated by some frozen-bodied masseuses
who inhabit the ice-bound islands

where children starve daily and

women and men without chains cannot work, cannot move.

They all cry for freedom, and an end to the ice-age

and they wish that our harbour ice would flow back to Halifax
never to return.