

National Notes

Women march against violence

WINNIPEG (CUP) — "We want streets without creeps," and "yes means yes and no means no however we dress and wherever we go" were two of the refrains chanted by two hundred people who marched against violence towards women here in March.

The march was patrolled by women wearing armbands with the insignia of wen-do, a women's self-defense method. Police watched the march from the other side of the street.

The chants were similar to those heard on international women's day last year when close to three hundred people marched in -30 degree weather to save Osborne House, a jeopardized home for battered women. Osborne House's funding was subsequently retained after these and other outcrys.

Public reaction to the march was mixed — from the good-natured to malicious questions about the nature of the march to the cheers and taunts from passing cars.

Decision on rape case

TORONTO (CUP) — A decision is expected soon on what York University officials will do after allegations that a York student was raped by one of her instructors.

Although rape charges were never laid by the student, a complaint was lodged with the university after an incident that occurred in a teacher's apartment last November.

Bill Farr, employee and student relations vice-president, is sending out letters to the parties involved before making the university's course of action public.

Farr has completed an investigation and presented his findings to president Ian Macdonald. The decision was reviewed by Macdonald and passed back to Farr for final resolution.

Ann Shteir, advisor to the president on the status of women at York, says she is satisfied that Farr has looked into the case in detail.

The possibility of a hard-line action against the teacher has been strengthened by a recent landmark arbitration decision. An arbitration panel upheld the firing of professor Rudi Strickler by the University of Ottawa. The ecology professor was fired for a series of three sexual assaults on a 20-year old biology student Marie Eve Coupal.

Engineers sued for libel

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Two University of B.C. students have filed a libel suit against the university, the UBC engineering undergraduate society (EUS) and the Alma Mater (student) Society.

The suit is the result of allegedly libellous material published about the two students (both of them women) in the engineering students' newsletter.

One of the students, Star Mahara, said she seriously considered not bringing the case to court after lawyers warned her of potential harassment as a result of the action. But Mahara said there is no reason to avoid the lawsuit as she is already being harassed.

"The results of the (alleged) libel were the phone calls," she said. After the newsletter published Mahara's real name and home telephone number, she received numerous obscene telephone calls. As a result she said she finally felt forced to have the number changed.

And Mahara said the telephone calls are not the only result of the material the engineering students published.

"(There have been) people hanging around my house — strange men," she said. "I've had friends staying here for some time."

She also said the aftermath of the incident has affected her university studies. "It's hard to do your work when you're being harassed," she said. "Every time I see a red jacket, I check it out to see if it's an engineer."

Acting dean appointed

Dr. Gordon Myers has been appointed Acting Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences for an indefinite term of office.

The appointment was made necessary by the death of Dean Van Petten earlier this year.

Myers is a graduate of the U of A. at the Baccalaureate and Masters level and holds a Ph.D. from McGill University. He joined the academic staff at the U of A in 1947.

Myers served as Associate Dean of the Faculty before his appointment.

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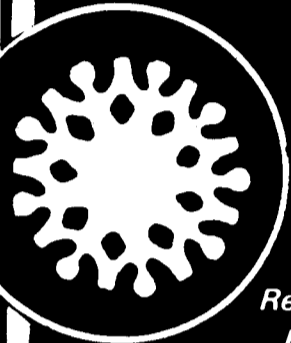
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