

Instructor insults women

TORONTO (CUP) — Bar admission students at Osgoode Hall in downtown Toronto, are demanding a public apology from a course instructor following remarks he made about two pages of text which prospective male and female lawyers charged are sexist and manipulative.

Many of the students are graduates of York's Osgoode Hall Law school.

Toronto lawyer Albert Strauss, who heads the law office administration section of the bar admission section at Osgoode, told his class of several hundred Nov. 16 they could choose whether to take the material in question to heart or not. Then, directing his response to the women in the room, he said: "... or you can send them (the pages) back, along with your brassieres ... or any other garment."

A number of students began walking out of the class. Observing one woman who tossed the two pages of the loose-leaf manual on his desk as she left, Strauss remarked, "I guess she's not wearing a bra."

An emotional scene followed outside the lecture room, as students confronted Strauss, swearing at him and demanding an apology.



The bar admission students, mostly in their twenties and early thirties on the last leg of seven years of academic and practical preparation, said later that the material in the course text was offensive enough, but the attitude of their instructor was "inexcusable."

The manual, designed to aid lawyers setting up practice, suggests lawyers could try the following

newspaper advertisement when looking for a secretary: "Young lawyer desires beautiful, young and confidential secretary ... but really needs an efficient Gal Friday. Unless very beautiful, you should be able to take short-hand on machine dictation ... you should be a whiz at making good coffee..."

Students are petitioning to have the material removed from the course, inviting others to send the pages to the director of the bar admission course. Student Beth Symes said that at a time when new lawyers are being forced to set up their own practices because of the tight job market, the inclusion of such material is more than just bad taste.

Jeff House, one of the almost 1,000 bar admission students in Ontario expecting to be called to the bar when the six-month bar course ends in February, said the incident has a familiar ring to it.

He said he attended one seminar in which an instructor gave students pointers on how to do well in the trial situation. "He recommended hiring an articling student with, excuse me, but this is how he put it, with big tits, and getting her sitting right up there close to the jury."



Lad singer of "The Stampeders" belts out a few bars at last Thursday's "Steppin' Out" sponsored by Founders College. Burton Cummings did not show up. David Himbara photo

Israeli UN delegate discusses religion and state in Israel

By Annette Goldsmith

"Religion and the State in Israel: A Unique Relationship" — this was the title of a talk presented by Dr. Zalman Abramov, a member of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations, who spoke at York on Monday November 14.

It was one of the rarest of lectures about Israel, dealing with controversies within Israel, rather than the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The speaker explained the Israeli attitude towards religion in its historical context. Before 1917 Palestine belonged to the Ottoman Empire; it then became a protectorate of Britain; and finally in 1948, the state of Israel. But the liberal religious concessions of Ottoman rule remain today.

Ottoman rulers allowed minorities religious autonomy over domestic matters such as marriage

and divorce. They considered it an act of benevolence, but it was also necessary. For instance, Islam, which permits polygamy, could not apply its law to the monogamous Christian and Jewish minorities.

Thus parallel courts develop for each religion, resulting in the surprising fact that the state of Israel today supports three major religions. There are the Jewish rabbinical courts, the Islamic

courts, and the various denominations of Christian courts.

Current religious debates revolve around how to define the Jewish state. And because Dr. Abramov sees the "law of return", (which asserts the position of Israel as the homeland of all Jews who wish to settle there) as the most important piece of Israeli legislation, the big question becomes "What is a Jew?"

Religious groups in Israel consider the Jews to be a community of faith. On the other hand secularists allow the historical importance of religion in the creation of Israel, but reject its role in running the state. Dr. Abramov jokingly remarked that there is no such thing as a 100 per cent secularist:

"The Jewish atheist knows what the God he doesn't believe in expects him to do."

Coping with religious-secular friction is further complicated when we take into account the Diaspora (all Jews living outside of Israel, and who form the majority of the Jewish people). According to Dr. Abramov, Israel is bound to maintain close ties with the Diaspora. Here is an example of the delicacy of the situation.

In Israel, only an Orthodox rabbi can legally perform a Jewish marriage. Conservative and Reform rabbis are not recognized by

the law. A Jew is defined in Israeli law as someone born of a Jewish mother, or who has been converted to Judaism.

The statement of who does the conversion is purposely left vague. In Israel it must be an Orthodox rabbi, but for Diaspora Jewry the rabbi can be Conservative or Reform. In this way Israel manages to remain flexible.

Dr. Abramov concluded by saying that the debate on the role of religion in the Jewish state is a spiritual rather than a political one. This is an ongoing investigation, taken up anew by every generation. Therefore these controversies are really enriching, and result in the compromises and accommodations necessary in order to exist.

The Israel which Dr. Abramov described in this way resembles Canada — the only other nation wrestling with a national identity crisis.



A scene from the Dance Department open house held November 15. Sandy Zeldin photo

Experimental community needs 15 couple

By Grant Kennedy

The Faculty of Environmental Studies is looking for fifteen couples to partake in an experimental community development project. It will be the first time in Toronto that a community housing unit will be designed according to the input of a private group.

The project will consult with experts in the area of energy conservation.

The emphasis of the project is on tailoring the needs of individual families to those of the rest of the group, in a mutually beneficial way.

The designing process will start this month and proceed until April. Building should start before the summer.

It is hoped the utilization of renewable energy, waste recycling techniques, and an opportunity to grow food will be incorporated into the building plan.

While financing comes from individuals, it should cost less than \$60,000 per housing unit.

Mortgages are available. Cadillac-Fairview, a well known mass market building firm, has financially backed the research. If

the project goes well, it could later extend to other communities. The project is significant because it is uncommon for a group of private individuals to develop a housing plan on a collective basis.

The idea of a shared community in an urban setting has not previously occurred in Canada.

Dave Butt, and Diana Jardine both in the faculty of Environmental Studies, are working on the project. Butt says many of the concepts he hopes to employ, were learned from his observations in third world countries.

"It will probably come as less of a surprise to the York community than say, the Bay street community, that Canada is sorely behind many other countries in many aspects of environmental planning."

He is very positive about the concept of planning a unique community because emphasis is on the families themselves.

The direction the project takes will be up to the group. The final result will not be a structure pre-conceived by planners.

The planners hope to make

available their knowledge of the cost-saving technical devices, available in the energy conservation field.

Some approaches to building design which maximize heat conservation, are quite simple.

These include proper insulation, south facing windows and wind-breakers to the north. Another way to conserve heat is to use body heat.

This is done by fans which draw the heat from a crowded room into a retaining area. This is insulated and contains a base substance such as wax or rocks to retain the temperature.

When the original room becomes too cool, the fans are reversed to increase the temperature.

Another area of concern is in the utilization of all materials. Even sewage should be conserved.

There are toilets available on the market called "Swedish Clives" which recycle sewage into dry fertilizer for the garden.

Of course many common consumer packages thrown out every day, can be re-used in another form.

Members of the planned community will probably become more

involved in management of energy and food needs than the community at large.

The physical setting itself will probably be purchased within the Metro region. Because of Cadillac-Fairview's backing, it should not be too difficult to get land, which may be currently allotted for a subdivision.

The total area would be less than two acres. The buildings would probably be less than three stories high, so the emphasis is on pedestrian travel. There should be lots of alternatives open in the area of recreation. Expense could be kept down by sharing facilities collectively. These facilities could be a daycare center, gym, pool, park land, and so on.

This type of arrangement is common in existing condominiums.

Butt stressed the project would not be "a return to the dark ages", but an intelligent use of existing technology.

If you are interested in finding out about a different life style, contact Dave Butt at Environmental Studies, 677-6452.

News briefs

Dube at York

Joseph Dube, Caribbean representative for the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe, will speak at York in Curtis Lecture Hall "E", tomorrow, November 25, from 2 to 4 pm.

The Patriotic Front is recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) as the official national liberation movement of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). It is led by J. Nkomo and Robert Mugabe.

The theme of Dube's talk will be the "National Liberation Struggle in Southern Africa". The meeting is sponsored by the Third World Students' Union.

Out for blood

Toronto is currently facing a bad blood shortage, and the situation looks bleak for the long winter months ahead. Founders College will be holding a Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic on Wednesday, November 30 from 10-4 pm. in the Founders College Dining Hall. All York students are urged to share their blood with those less fortunate than themselves - who knows, one day it may be you! So don't forget to give next Wednesday - we'll be expecting you!