

Faculty Focus :

Shteir fights sexism

Ian Bailey

Professor Ann B. Shteir sees sexual harassment as an ill which interferes with the role of a university. "We should help students to transcend the limits of their particular background and gender," says the Associate Professor of Humanities at Atkinson. "Sexual harassment flies in the face of this."

Shteir has a great deal of knowledge to draw upon in the area of sexual harassment and women's issues in general. Recently, she chaired a Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Harassment with the Committee releasing its report (the first of its kind) in January. She is also the former Advisor to the President on the Status of Women and the founder of the York's Women's Centre.

With an undergraduate degree in German from Douglass College, Shteir went to Rutgers University for a Ph.D in comparative literature. There she found that literature was a most effective way of examining one of her interests, the 18th century. She came to Canada from Philadelphia in 1972 to teach in the particular atmosphere of Atkinson. "I came to teach adults and adult women."

Shortly after her arrival, she established the Women's Centre at York. "There was a need when I came. It's a need that will continue."

In reflecting on the topic of harassment in light of the report, she calls the sexual harassment issue a new name for an old problem. "Ten years ago people did not even have a name for it." She describes her interest in the issue as "personal" and calls it "a window on sexism". Though she admits that the topic was disconcerting to some people, Shteir pointed out that the response was better than no response at all.

With the academic report behind her, Shteir says that she wants to continue her academic research and she is presently writing books. One is about a Quaker woman who works toward female education. The other book looks at women and science in the 18th century.

Autonomy threatened

Berel Wetstein

The Ontario Federation of Students' cutback rally, like the seal hunt protests, is an annual spring ritual that rarely changes.

This year, however, the OFS' concerns about the continual underfunding of Ontario universities will be augmented by a preoccupation with Bette Stephenson's threat to take away autonomy from universities that refuse to eliminate their deficits.

At the rally members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Association and CUEW will aim to demonstrate that professors and support staff have been subsidizing the university by accepting wages 13.2% lower than the inflation rate.

The question of university independence will also be discussed. Autonomy, which was a major issue in the early 1970's, allows universities to determine what programs they will offer.

Not allowed to run deficits the community colleges have been much harder hit than the universities. This combined with their much lower tuition base has led the colleges to slash courses.

The rally will also provide a forum for grievances such as the allegation that the Minister of Colleges and Universities, Bette Stephenson, has not yet acknowledged The Report On Future Roles Of The Universities In Ontario, delivered to the Ministry in November. This report, researched, compiled and paid for by her ministry, concluded that the university system in Ontario is on the brink of collapse.

David Peterson, leader of the Ontario Liberal Party and Bob Rae, leader of Ontario's NDP are expected to attend the rally to accuse Stephenson of refusing to face the opposition in the House since the announcement of tuition increases. The Minister is in the Middle East on a trade mission.



Two York students give blood at this week's Red Cross Clinic.

Health Minister Grossman contradicts provincial treasurer

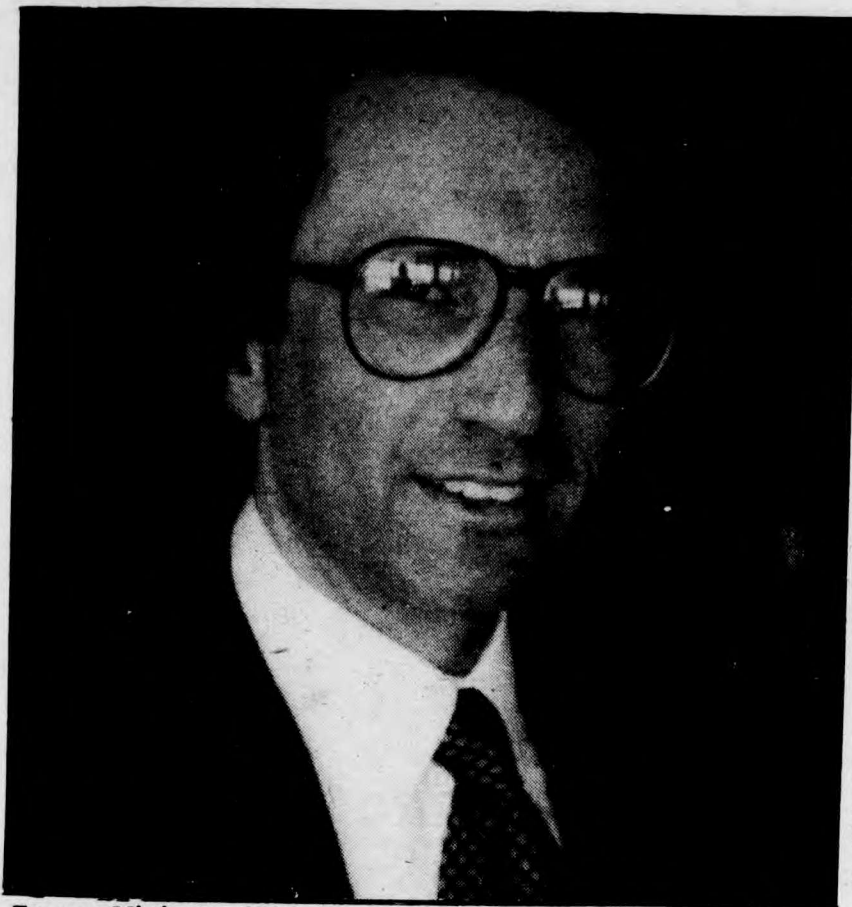
Mike Guy

Former Minister of Industry and Tourism, Larry Grossman, lecturing in the faculty lounge last Thursday on Canadian-American relations, made a comment which contradicted the statement his fellow cabinet minister, Provincial Treasurer Frank Miller had made the week before. Unlike Miller, who asked for equitable fees, Grossman, presently Minister of Health, said, "Ontario will not engage in equitable methods of determining pay levels which will affect doctors and consequently professors." He added that "We will not be put into a lockstep with Alberta", since pay is not the sole factor which determines job choice.

On the subject of Canadian-American relations, Grossman blamed the federal government for a poor foreign policy, especially in regard to the U.S. "The Americans," he said, "complain about the three per cent foreign ownership of their manufacturing industry, while we here in Canada silently accept the 47% foreign ownership of our manufacturing industry."

"Our government should not be afraid to take decisive action through the Foreign Investment Review Agency," Grossman added, saying that they have lessened FIRA's role "for fear of economic reprisals from the U.S."

After his lecture, Grossman



Former Minister of Industry and Tourism, Larry Grossman.

Alex Woloszewych

spoke briefly of his work in tourism, saying that he "helped to change the American view of Ontario as a nice place with nice trees." In an extensive campaign which included the use of pamphlets, newspaper articles, posters and television commercials, Grossman claimed he boosted Ontario's tourist industry tremendously. Also, he

was responsible for recommending a bill that was passed to give tourist resorts that want to stay open during all four seasons, a \$5,000 loan at 5% subsidized interest.

Grossman's work has paid off, for last year tourism in Ontario increased by 16%. And we no longer live in the land of nice trees.

Fletcher sees no Sun intervention

PJ Todd

Not all members of the Kent Commission are protesting the recent Maclean Hunter acquisition of the Toronto Sun Publishing Corporation.

"I don't share the views of the Commission expressed in the media," said Frederick Fletcher, York Political Science professor, media critic, analyst, and author of *The Newspaper and Public Affairs*, the seventh of the Royal Commission on Newspapers' eight volumes.

"There are some obvious costs, but some benefits as well," said Fletcher, commenting on Maclean Hunter's \$54 million purchase of a 50 per cent controlling interest in the Sun corporation. "The Western Suns are losing money and Maclean Hunter is a profit oriented company which might be tempted to shut down those operations."

Pointing to the Sun's ownership of United Press Canada, he continued, "The purchase would possibly lead to the improvement of the other wire service in Canada. We'd then have UPC and CP and this would provide more diversity."

Fletcher, who admittedly does not read the Sun, (at the least, I do not agree with its politics"),

believes the paper is necessarily serving one-third of the population that might otherwise not be exposed to the news.

Asked if he thinks the federal government will act on the Kent Commission's recommendations and investigate the merger, Fletcher was dubious. "I don't think they will. The government doesn't want to be involved in retroactive legislation."

Although he acknowledged that cross-media ownership by Maclean Hunter might be criticized and the firm ordered to divest itself of radio and television holdings, he does not

believe this will occur. "The government won't hit this head on. Maclean Hunter has always enjoyed good relations with the Liberal government. They've changed tax regulations to benefit this company before."

Fletcher also expressed dissatisfaction with the Royal Commission's study, chaired by Tom Kent, and released last summer. "I was only given seven months to examine the effects of newspapers on public affairs. This was excessively hasty." Furthermore, said Fletcher, "there is no content analysis in the report and this is a serious flaw in the Commission's work."

Recommendations approved

Mike Guy

The Senate voted on the last set of recommendations from the Academic Policy and Planning Committee's report last Thursday. Describing the report as "revolutionary", Bill Found, Vice-President in charge of Academic Affairs, said "We have not had a comprehensive report like this for many years". The APPC report consolidated the suggestions of various committees, enabling the Senate to vote on them in a series of meetings.

"When all the faculties and the APPC has taken a second look at the report, it will be used to help the budget reflect the university's priorities," said Secretary Malcolm Ransom.

Today, President MacDonald will present the Senate with the budget, including the alterations suggested by the APPC's report and approved by the faculties. Monday, he will put the total package before the Board of Governors.

