

# Ubiquitous, mysogyny thrives

By Anne Stephen

"Mysogyny, or women-hatred, is a pretty standard theme in society; it is all pervasive."

Debra Lewis, renowned author and women's rights activist, spoke at the University on Monday, last week, which was International Women's Day.

Lewis is involved with the Battered Women's Support Services in Vancouver, and is an instructor at the Vancouver Community College. She co-authored *Rape: The Price of Coercive Sexuality*, which was very well received when it was published in 1977.

The topic of her lecture was "Women, Violence and Social Change."

Lewis said mysogyny exists in our laws, in the media and in society in general.

The role of women as property is exhibited in our laws.

Rape is an example of having sexual relations with someone who is someone else's property and when it happens, "we've probably taken a risk we shouldn't have," she said.

"It is still not a crime in this country for a man to force sex on his wife, he has exclusive rights to her," she added.

"We can't use our sexuality for our own use, it is to be held in trust until it has a rightful owner," which illustrates society's idea that women are property.

Of the women's liberation movement, Lewis said, "The 60's and 70's did nothing to change this basic relationship, the historical pressure to say 'no' was replaced by peer pressure to say 'yes.'"

She added "men learn that the right to feminine sexuality must be purchased," and the price is marriage.

Men come to resent this fact, and as a result, "much of sexual



Debra Lewis, author of *Rape: The Price of Coercive Sexuality*, spoke on campus last week.

contact will be coercive" in nature.

A social definition of violence is "the use of force and threats to compel or constrain women to conform or not to conform to some form of behaviour," she said. Therefore, "violence against women is a tool of social control," said Lewis.

"The threat (of violence) can obtain the same final results," and, "all men extract benefits, even if they don't use it," Lewis explained.

In the media, pornography "plays a role in sustaining a system in which women are subjects of violence," and, "it reinforces that violence and coercion are important parts of our lives," she said.

"Pornography is a fantasy solution that provokes non-fantasy acts, (and it) provides the framework that encourages violent acts against women," Lewis added.

In a study done at the University of Wisconsin, men and women were paired in different combinations; the first of each pair was told they were to deliver a painful shock to the second. In the experimental group, the first of the pair was exposed to pornography before performing the experiment.

The only combination which showed any significant increase in the number of participants willing to deliver the allegedly painful shock was the men exposed to pornography who were paired with women.

"It is not in the short term interests of men or the long term interests of patriarchy that women become autonomous and equal," Lewis stated.

She concluded by saying that women must "work for the material reorganization of society for women to be economically and socially equal."

## EDMONTON OPERA

The story of a bewitching gypsy girl who gambles in the game of love and loses.

BIZET'S

# Carmen

March 25, 27, 29. 8:00 P.M.

Jubilee Auditorium

Joy Davidson • John Fredrick West • Boris Martinovich  
Pierre Hetu and the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra  
Irving Guttman, Director

Tickets At All BASS Outlets

Edmonton Charge by Phone: 488-4826

Mar. 25

Mar. 27

Mar. 27



Consumers' Welding Supplies Ltd.



Canadian Commercial Bank



## KWIK COPY CENTRE

DUPLICATING

8¢

1ST - 10TH COPY

6¢

11TH TO 25TH COPY

4¢

26TH - 50TH COPY

3¢

51ST COPY AND OVER

Example:

50 copies \$2.70      500 copies \$16.20  
100 copies \$4.20      1,000 copies \$31.20

PER ORIGINAL

- Special students' discount of 20% on student work
- Friendly service while-u-wait
- Ample Free Parking
- Easy access
- 89th Street - 51 Avenue (Point 51 Centre)

Phone 466-7343



**Peter Wolf**  
**ALL CORDS**  
**30% OFF**

All Winter Outerwear 1/2 Price

433-0907

8906 - 112 St.  
HUB Mall

## Dinwoodie

**LAURA VINSON**  
**and Red Wyng**

**Sat. March 20**

Tickets Agfor 2-25, CAB,  
SU-Box

Presented by S.U. & Forestry

**Long John Baldry**

**Sat., April 3**

Tickets  
S.U.B. Box Office

**Room at the Top**  
**GARY BOWMAN**

(cover)

**March 18 - 19 - 20.**