

# Of mice and women

By MICHELINA TRIGIANI

Professor Cynthia Dent sensed something was wrong when a number of people in the room started wiggling in their seats and looking at the rug.

Dent was lecturing on the Origins of the Modern Family. She knew it hadn't started under the rug.

The professor's reaction was a loud, "You're kidding!" when well-wishers in the front row whispered that a mouse was loose in Bethune's Club Room. Waving her ruler authoritatively, Dent said, "I order you to forget the mouse." And, as most people were more interested in her lecture than in the animal, they obeyed.

Dent rapidly picked up where she had left off (in the middle of a 15th century Brueghel painting), but stopped only moments later to observe, "Oops, there he goes under your chair!"

Well, at least the culprit was male.

Dent's lecture was the seventh in a series called Woman: An Introduction — York's contribution to International Women's Year. Keeping with the spirit of the occasion, the predominantly female audience took to the furry creature and not a soul screamed, "Mouse!"

Johanna Stuckey, chairman of Humanities at York and radical feminist, conceived the idea of the lectures in early June. According to Dr. Howard Adelman, chairman of Philosophy at Atkinson and an active participant in the series, the aim of the programme is "to give a broad background in to how things got the way they are today in the social world."

## ANCIENT WORLD

The lectures, which started with a talk on the ancient world by Stuckey, will total 25 in all. By April 7, the terminating date, the series will arrive at Woman in Canada Today. This last lecture will be delivered by Judy LaMarsh, who will speak on women and political power.

Although she admitted the appearance of the mouse "put her off," Dent, an associate professor of Humanities and History at York, proceeded to discuss theories concerning the modern family at the lecture. She did this by drawing on visual sources such as slides of medieval tapestries, illuminated manuscripts and a series of paintings.

Dent stressed that prior to the 15th century, the family did not exist as we know it today. There

was no assignation of roles. The male was not solely the breadwinner representing the external world and the female did not function merely in the internal context, playing her biological role. In fact, medieval art depicts men, women and children associating equally in work and at play.

Dent attributes the changing view towards children after the 15th century as the basis for our modern conjugal family. Prior to this time, children were looked upon as mere "small adults" and were treated as such. As the new concept of the helplessness and vulnerability of the child grew, the family began its retreat from the outer world and became a strong independent unit in order to protect the child.

This change was gradual and occurred from the 15th to the 18th century. By this time, the role-playing which forms the backbone of our modern family could be seen clearly. There was an increase in paternal authority, the woman lost her equal partner

status (resulting from loss of her economic function) and by the 16th century, she had lost all her legal rights.

Dent concluded that the conjugal family has only recently received challenges. These have been directed almost exclusively to the role-playing which exists. Although the internal role of wife and mother has been changing dramatically, Dent admits that today "the dominant notion of most people is still the old one".

A significant number of men attended the lecture, but one vocal participant complained that "all evidence is being skewed to discrimination against women. The same thing can be done with these historical pieces to bring out discrimination against men." Adelman noted that this particular gentleman has tried to stir up something at every lecture but is now "mellowing".

Judging by the turn-out, the series seems a success and one lady, who has diligently attended all seven lectures, called them "excellent and very informative".

## The rest is all gravy

SAN FRANCISCO (ENS-CUP) — It's getting close to the Christmas barrage of catalogues, ads, and more ads. One of the more original marketing attempts was made in the Christmas 1975 Neiman-Marcus catalogue. In case you didn't know, Neiman-Marcus is one of those stores that cater to people with more money than brains. Anyhow, one of this year's features is a sterling silver plated model "gravy train".

Provoking memories of that old Lionel set in the basement, the set includes an engine that pulls four cars around the dinner table, delivering salt, pepper, gravy and condiments. The price: \$8,000. But, if you have to ask the price...

**THE BOOKSTORE'S ANNUAL ANTI-INFLATION SALE WILL TAKE PLACE THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 10 - NOVEMBER 14. COME AND SEE. BARGAINS FEATURED.**

## DIALOGUE ON RACE RELATIONS

**A SERIES OF PUBLIC FORUMS ON MULTI RACIALISM IN METROPOLITAN TORONTO  
Forum 1 - Sunday Nov. 9, 1975 at 2 p.m.  
RACIAL PREJUDICE IN TORONTO**

Who are Toronto's "Visible New Minorities?"  
What is the extent of racial prejudice in Metropolitan Toronto?  
In what ways does prejudice manifest itself?  
How serious is the problem of anti-racial extremism?  
What is the relationship between verbal prejudice and physical violence?  
How is prejudice escalated?  
How can attitudes be changed in a positive way?

**Moderator:** Dr. Evelyn Kallen, Associate Professor of Anthropology York University (Co-Author "Anatomy of Racism; Canadian Dimensions;

**Panelists:** Mr. Atsu Harley, representing Black Workers Alliance. Mr. Mohammad Malik, Chairman of Pakistani Canadian Action Committee against Racism. Dr. Vishwanath Pande, executive member, Indian Immigrant Aid Services. Dr. Anthony Richmond, Professor of Sociology & Co-ordinator of Ethnic Research Programs, York University; member Advisory Board on Adjustment of Immigrants - Canada Manpower & Immigration.

Admission \$1 at the door (Students & Seniors - 50c)

**ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED  
MAIN AUDITORIUM**

**First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto  
175 St. Clair Avenue West at Avenue Road**

## Tap n' Keg Pub

invites you to party every Wednesday Night

### LITTLE BOY BLUES BAND

- Nov. 12

### STUDEBAKER HAWK

- Nov. 19

### DOWNCHILD BLUES BAND

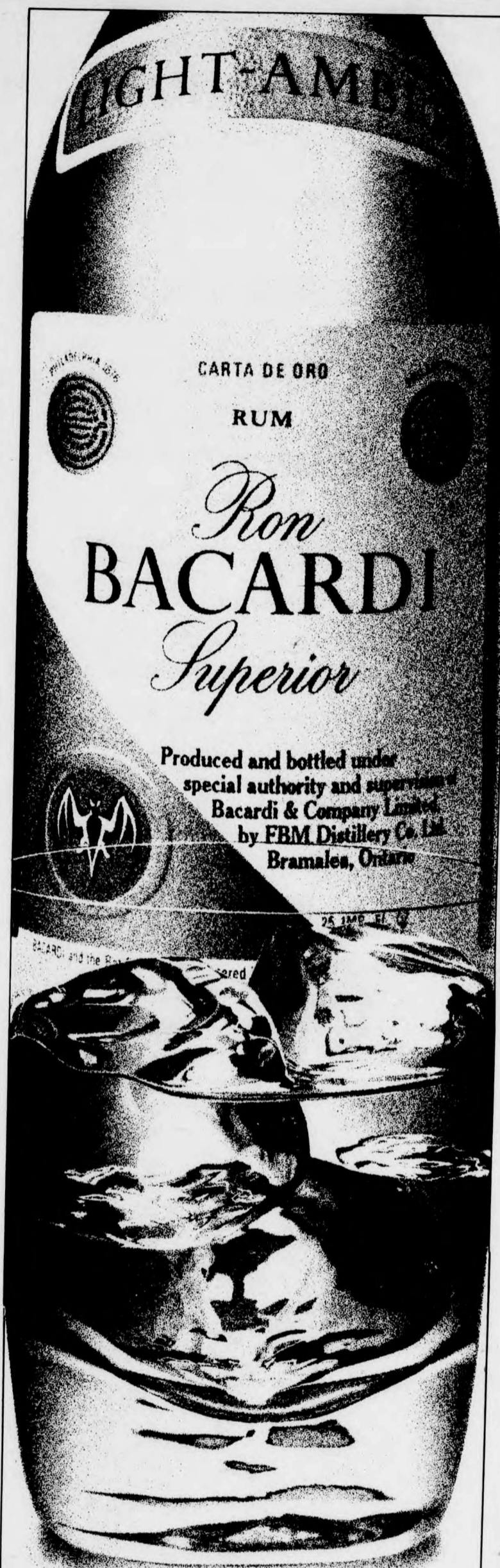
- Nov. 20 (Thurs.)

### Bethune College Dining Hall

8:30 p.m.

Admission: 50c Bethuners \$1.00 York I.D.

with a different Special every week.



Produced and bottled under special authority and supervision of Bacardi & Company Limited by FBM Distillery Co. Ltd. Bramalea, Ontario

**Bacardi light-amber on the rocks. Ice and easy.**

Pop some ice in a glass, splash in Bacardi light-amber rum. Honest, direct, down to earth. Yet always smooth, surprisingly subtle.

BACARDI rum. Bacardi Rum(s) Produced by Special Authority and Under the Supervision of Bacardi & Company Limited. "Bacardi" and Bat Device are Registered Trademarks of Bacardi & Company Limited. Bottled by FBM Distillery Co. Ltd., Canada.