



Yeoman snips net after victory. Story page 14.

Sexual Harassment Centre gets a red light from the Human Rights Commission

PAULA TODD

The Ontario Human Rights Commission has ruled that the sex of those applying for the position of co-ordinator of the York University Sexual Harassment Centre should not be a criterion for hiring.

In preventing the York University Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Harassment from stipulating the sex of the co-ordinator, the O.H.R.C. refused to accept the University's argument that the sex of the applicant constitutes a "reasonable and bona fide qualification because of the nature of the employment." (Human Rights Code, s.23).

Female co-ordinator

The committee had recommended in its report to the President last May that "The Centre should initially have one part-time co-ordinator, who shall be female." They reached that decision after much research and discussion and in consultation with organisations such as the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre.

The committee found that the majority of sexual harassment victims were women, and that women were more willing to discuss these incidents with other women.

Delayed opening

Associate Dean of Atkinson College, Paul Grayson, disagreed and suggested that no such statistics exist. Claiming that the hiring policy of the committee was sexist, he appealed to the O.H.R.C.

The opening of the Centre, originally scheduled for August of 1982, was delayed as representatives from the York committee met with Perry Arnot, the Human Rights officer investigating the case, in an attempt to settle the dispute.

"The York presentation to the Ontario Human Rights Commission was excellent and our discussions were interesting," commented Professor Ann Shteir, chairperson of the sexual harassment committee. She added, "I think the Human Rights

Commission decision was timid, for political reasons, but I also think the Human Rights Commission learned a lot from our case." Vice-President of Employee and Student Relations, Bill Farr, who was also involved in the negotiations said, "I bow to their (the O.H.R.C.) superior powers. I was in favour of what they said we did wrong. But I think it has been worked out satisfactorily."

Abide by decision

President Ian Macdonald said at the outset of the meetings that he would abide by the decision of the O.H.R.C. and in a statement released this week, the University has agreed that "The position will be re-advertised and readministered without specification of sex as criterion for eligibility."

Advertisements for the job will appear next week, with the deadline for applications set as the end of March. According to Shteir, the committee is "aiming to have the position begin in July."

EXCALIBUR

March 3, 1983

The York We-Need-Your-Support Press

Vol. 17 No. 22

International Women's Week in Toronto

Speakers support women's right to choose abortion

PAUL PIVATO

A large banner proclaimed, "I will not be a prisoner of my womb"; another, showing the two bloody coat hangers declared, "Never Again" and a

flag with the clenched-fist logo of the feminist movement waved high above the crowd gathered for the first speakers' series of International Women's

Week, *Women's Liberation and Abortion*.

The first of three public forums, Monday's discussion marks the beginning of a week-long celebration of the women's movement which will culminate in a rally and demonstration at U of T's Convocation Hall on March 5th.

Speaking first, was Connie Guberman, a representative from the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics. She said that Canada is a patriarchal society which controls women's bodies and exploits them as property. According to Adamson, the ultimate goal of the coalition is the repeal of abortion laws. The group plans to open illegal abortion

clinics in Ontario as an act of civil disobedience.

Marian Bloom, a committee member of the Ontario Coalition of Choice for Abortion Clinics, is in favour of the clinics. "To get some response on this issue we're unfortunately going to have to go against the law," explains Bloom. At the end of the talks, when chairman Sandi Fox announced that an illegal clinic will open in Winnipeg before March 5, the crowd burst into applause, and a congratulatory telegram was sent off.

Since 1978, International Women's Day has grown to the point where over 5,000 people participated in last year's demonstration, prompting this year's

exposition to be expanded to a week-long event.

Representatives from nearly all feminist organizations were present at the abortion forum. The speaker from the Ontario Federation of Women's Labour described how provincial Liberal leader David Peterson was recently slandered and deluged with hate calls for his prochoice stand on abortion. Peterson reportedly quipped, "None of the calls were from women."

Anna Bodner, a member of Women Working with Immigrant Women (WWIW) discussed the plight of working class, lower income immigrant women.

"Abortions must be free," claims Bodner, "or they will

will be inaccessible to many women." Bodner stressed the need for establishing a shelter for immigrant women who seek support and counselling in their own language. For some women, Bodner concluded "Abortion is not a real choice, but an economic necessity."

Mary Rowles, President of the Women's Committee of the Ontario NDP, spoke about the movement to repeal present abortion laws from a political perspective. Rowles pointed out that the party was divided on the issue of abortion in the early 1970's, but a committee of M.P.'s recently sent a letter to Health Minister Larry Grossman, asking him to allow

See Feminist-lesbian page 3

Excal vote denied

BRIAN HENRY
JOHN SCHMIED

Last night, the Council of the York Student Federation voted on a motion to hold a referendum to ask students whether \$1.00 should be levied through student fees to support *Excalibur* on a permanent basis. The motion tied, four votes to four votes, which means that it lost. There were three abstentions. Randy Dobson, who spoke strongly in favour of the motion, walked to protest the motion being defeated "by abstentions." Dobson said the council members had a responsibility to vote. Dobson's departure caused council to lose quorum.

Before the walkout, council defeated a motion to ask whether students would support a \$2.00 levy for two years to create a multi-cultural centre.

A motion to hold a referendum asking whether \$1.50 should be levied to make the Vanier College paper, *The Vandoo*, a second central student newspaper was also defeated.

At last night's meeting the council also passed a budget for the 82-83 academic year.

Council broke into applause when the budget was passed in a unanimous vote. Recognising that the budget provides for a deficit of over 20,000 dollars, council added an amendment requiring business manager Tony Finn to present an up-to-date accounting of money already spent, as well as any suggestions to reduce the debt to council at the next meeting.

Citing the late time of year, Chief Returning Officer Larry Till recommended council elections be held on Wednesday, April 8th. This provides for the nomination period to open on March 9 and close the 21st and campaigning to be held between Tuesday, March 22 and Monday, April 4. Council passed the motion unanimously.

SANJAY DHAWAN

The history of mankind can be compared with the growth of a child, and world peace is inevitable, said Nancy Ackerman, a public information officer for the Baha'i organization.

Ackerman made this statement while participating in a panel discussion on attaining world peace. The Baha'i club of York, and the York Association for Peace presented the discussion on Thursday, February 24.

During the discussion, Ackerman said mankind is now in its adolescent stage,

and its maturity, like that of a teenager, is inevitable.

The knowledge, however, that is essential to this maturity "is the recognition of the oneness of mankind", and that "well being is unattainable unless unity is attained."

One of the ways in which this guidance may be instilled was suggested by Professor Eric Fawcett, President of Science for Peace. He stated that it was "startling to find how ignorant our government representatives are of the issues." He suggested that the educators and the govern-

ments must be made fully aware of the repercussions of a nuclear war. He also proposed that Peace studies in one form or the other be incorporated into more university curriculums.

Douglas Martin, a historian and Executive Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Canada, stated that the Baha'i community strongly supported world organizations such as the United Nations because the only way to ensure stable world conditions would be to introduce a world government. This opinion was secon-

ded by York professor J.M. McNamee, who said that "a world government will be necessary to prevent wars", because there is a lack of trust between the world's superpowers. McNamee also believes that nuclear disarmament would be easier to achieve if the United States took the problem more seriously. He believes the Soviet Union is ready to negotiate but the United States is afraid to lose its nuclear arms superiority. McNamee cited the Salt II talks of 1979 as an example of the United States' unwillingness to cooperate.