

COURSES OFFERED

All of us experience periods of self-doubt and wavering self-esteem - moments when we are woefully uncertain of our abilities and of what we can realistically expect to achieve or become. These crisis points exact their toll in health problems, moodiness, domestic stress and lost productivity at work. Yet they are a reality of adult life, and we must all find ways of working through them.

The situation seems to take on a particular character for women. Social conditioning often makes us disproportionately

reliant on others for a sense of self-definition and self-worth - and we are pressured by media and significant others to set unrealistically high standards for ourselves. For many women, it requires conscious effort and continual vigilance to set goals for ourselves, rather than letting them be imposed on us from the outside. Learning to regain control over our own time and relationships can be a monumental task - and an important step towards living life fully.

Two courses offered by

UNB's Department of Extension and Summer Session this fall offer group support to women trying to reassess their priorities. Both are taught by UNB psychology professor, Loreleigh Keashly.

The first, "Women and Self-Esteem", runs on a Friday evening and Saturday, October 20-21. It encourages each participant to consider the current state of her self-image and the factors which have shaped it, and to visualize what she would like to become and what practical steps she can undertake to achieve

her goals. Group discussion, problem-solving exercise, self-affirmation imagery, role play and relaxation techniques will be used. The fee is \$60.

The second, "The Superwoman Syndrome", focuses on scaling down over-achievement and reducing stress. It leads those taking part to re-evaluate their reasons for wanting to achieve certain goals, and enables them to separate their own wants and needs from those of others around them. This course takes place over a series of four Wednesday evenings,

beginning November 8. The fee is \$35.

For further information, contact the Department of Extension at 453-4946. To register, come to the Extension Office, Room 121, MacLaggan Hall, between 8.00 am and 9.00 pm, Mondays through Thursdays, or 8.00 am and 5.00 pm on Fridays.

For further information, contact: Loreleigh Keashly at 453-4707 or

Marilyn Noble at 453-4646

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

St. Thomas University has convoked a national symposium on the "Interfaith Dimensions of Canadian Multiculturalism". The symposium will be held in Edmund Casey Hall, October 26-28, 1989.

Transcending ethnic boundaries, faith offers a potential force for unity in Canada's multicultural, multi-faith society. The symposium will provide a national forum for the presentation of ideas and scholarly discussion of interfaith issues and concerns. It is designed to identify research priorities in the field of interfaith education, to promote interfaith communication, to increase

understanding of diverse beliefs and practices, and through mutual respect to foster peace and social justice. All symposium sessions will contribute to the elaboration of a Canadian code of etiquette for a multicultural, multi-faith society.

The symposium will feature some 30 specialists in the field of interfaith and multiculturalism. Drawn from across Canada, the speakers represent various cultural traditions and religious affiliations including Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Sikh, Zoroastrian, Hindu, Bahai, and Micmac Spirituality, among others.

The official opening of the

symposium will be held Thursday, October 26, beginning at 2:00 PM in Ted Daigle Auditorium.

This symposium continues St. Thomas University's practice, initiated in 1979, on hosting a conference in conjunction with Fall Convocation. St. Thomas has a long history of involvement in social justice issues and Human Rights education. Within the past year, the University has established the Atlantic Human Rights Centre which is housed on its campus. This is a collaborative effort with the University of New Brunswick and other Atlantic universities to advance research and education in

human rights. The national symposium has been organized by the Centre's Director Dr. Abdul Lodhi together with Dr. Thomas Parkhill, Chair, Department of Religious Studies, St. Thomas University.

The symposium is jointly sponsored by the University and the Department of the Secretary of State, Multiculturalism and Citizenship. Members of the public are cordially invited to attend. Advance copies of the symposium agenda can be obtained by contacting the University's Atlantic Human Rights Centre, Tel: 452-0549.

YEARBOOKS

AVAILABLE

The 1989 Yearbook is here. The yearbook is free to any graduates of 1989 and \$10 for other students or anyone interested in purchasing one. Yearbooks are sold on a first come, first serve basis. In addition yearbooks from past years are \$5 each. Yearbooks may be purchased at the Student Union Office in Room 126.

Blood and Thunder

Plagiarism ?

Dear Distractions Editor:

I, amongst others, truly enjoy the fine art of scribing language into verse. A plethora of poetry decorates the literary memories of my mind.

One of my favorite stanzas is the closing to a work entitled "If You're Ever Going to Love Me" by one Ali Ben Abu Taleb:

"He who has a thousand friend to spare
And he who has one enemy shall meet him
Everywhere"

How aghast I was Friday morning to see this same collection of words reprinted in your paper under the new title of "Friends" and signed by a Deogratias Mugo.

Such a fine composition is much too original, I think, to be duplicated by mere coincidence.

Plagiarism is a serious offense.

Sincerely,

Bernie Blakely

Ignorance

"I believe that the School Board has thus furthered the aims of the Ross' of our society..."

I have reasonable cause to believe that the Board of School Trustees of District #15 has violated section 5 of the Human Rights Act.

In his opinion piece, Yaqzan displays a profound ignorance of Canadian human rights legislation and the considerable jurisprudence of our Courts and Tribunals, which has nurtured its aims and objectives. In his view the Attis allegation of discrimination is "of a very different variety than that envisaged by the Human Rights Act of New Brunswick." Happily, it is not for him to make that decision, but rather for others sensitive to the underlying values which animate the legislation. Yaqzan posits a standard of "crude or violent expression" as the threshold test of prohibited discriminatory conduct. But our Human Rights Act proclaims as a fundamental principle "... that all persons are equal in dignity and human

rights without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, place of origin..."

And further that: "... ignorance, forgetfulness or contempt of the rights of others are often the causes of public miseries and social disadvantage; and

... people and institutions remain free only when freedom is founded upon respect for moral and spiritual values and the rule of law..."

It is a Code based on such values that the Human Rights Commission is mandated to administer. Thankfully, in doing so, it receives guidance from an enlightened Judiciary which has recognized that the principles underlying, and guarantees found within human rights legislation are "almost constitutional" in nature. Our Highest Court has stated "that every individual should have an equal opportunity with other individuals to live his or her own life without being hindered by discriminatory practices based on certain prohibited grounds of discrimination..."

The American legal theorist, Ronald Dworkin, has plaited as a governing principle in a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rm. 35, Student Union Building, UNB Campus
DEADLINE: 5 p.m. Tuesday

pluralist democracy such as ours that of equal concern and respect, one for the other. It is that principle which informs the human rights jurisprudence of the Supreme Court of Canada. In the Robichaud case (1987) the Court held that the central purpose of human rights legislation is remedial - "to eradicate antisocial conditions without regard to the motives or intention of those who caused them." There, responsibility was placed on an employer - the Department of National Defence - due to its control over the defense enterprise, to take case, sexual harassment of a female employee by her male supervisor had created a "poisoned work environment" which the employer was obliged to remedy because of an underlying obligation to provide a healthy work environment for its employees. David Attis desires for his only one thing: equal dignity in the classroom. He believes that the Moncton School Board owes it to his children, and indeed to all Moncton school children, to provide a classroom environment which is a healthy rather than a poisoned

one. The poison to be flushed out in this case is anti-semitism. David Attis has turned to the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission for succor in that quest. Let us hope that he has done so not in vain.

By
Thomas Kuttner
Associate Professor
Faculty of Law

Abuse of Privilege

Dear Sir:

The University is a community of inquiry, of searchers after knowledge and enlightenment. This is fittingly reflected in the UNB motto: Sapere Aude - Dare to be Wise. To further this noble mission we cling ferociously to the privilege of academic freedom.

Thus, I find it exceedingly painful to witness the abuse of that privilege by a colleague whose sophism-peppered with invective, half truth and innuendo - betrays our calling. I am speaking of Matin

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