

CROSSCANADA

English test for profs?

CALGARY (CUP) — An Alberta politician has been called "racist" for his suggestion that mandatory tests be given to professors who do not speak English clearly.

Tory MLA Lorne Taylor told the Alberta legislature that professors without a good grasp of English should be required to take a verbal test before being hired.

He said there are a number of teachers without a good command of the language and that students are suffering as a result. "Students should be able to understand professors when they're speaking," he said.

"People need to have a good command of spoken English before they are up in front of a classroom," he added.

Jim Marino, president of the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations, said Taylor's suggestion was offensive and based on false information.

"This is not true and can only refer to those speaking English with some sort of accent," said Marino. "It's a racist remark."

Alberta's advanced education minister Jack Ady said he receives occasional complaints from students, but he doesn't see language deficiencies as a big problem.

Taylor has also suggested upping the workload of professors, particularly in the area of classroom teaching, where he said most professors only instruct 12 hours per week.

Taylor has a doctorate from the University of Calgary, and has worked as a professor in Australia, Newfoundland and Saskatchewan.

Who's making the grade?

SAN FRANCISCO (NSNS/CUP) — The age-old debate over whether students should date their professors has flared up in the United States, with many schools enacting new dating policies.

The University of Virginia recently rejected a proposed ban on all social contact between professors and undergraduates. The proposal was meant to put an end to sexual harassment of students by faculty, but was turned down in favour of a narrower policy that restricts any "conflict of interest" between teachers' professional and personal lives.

Observers say this policy may well become a standard, precisely because it sidesteps the controversial question of whether students should be sleeping with their professors in the first place.

However, other universities are considering outright bans on sex between faculty and students.

The Syracuse University senate passed a sexual harassment policy in October which mandates that professors, teaching assistants and graduate assistants may not have sexual relationships with students in their classes.

The Syracuse policy also discourages sexual relationships between faculty members and students not in their classes.

In a class of his own

WINNIPEG (CUP) — Some University of Manitoba students are frightened and outraged after learning they must attend classes with a student charged with attempted murder.

A 20-year-old male arts student was charged February 11 with the attempted murder of a young aboriginal woman. The victim is now mute and half paralyzed after receiving 12 stab wounds to her head, chest and buttocks.

The university received a flood of complaints after it was revealed in October that the student is still attending classes.

"We students have a right to safety and less fear on campus," said one female classmate who wished to remain anonymous. "He is a clear and present danger."

Some fear that the student is a particular threat to women and natives. "The accused is racist, he was out to get her," said a student adviser.

But university vice president James Gardener said the student cannot be prevented from attending classes. In order to exclude him from the campus, an internal hearing process would have to take place with the student given the opportunity to represent himself.

"Under our justice system the accused is innocent until proven guilty," Gardener said. "There is nothing the university can do to stop him from attending classes."

The university investigated its legal position after the preliminary hearing and "must abide by the law," Gardener added.

One student attempted to inform her female classmates by posting a student newspaper article about the murder case in bathroom stalls. The articles disappeared quickly.

Several students want to know why the accused student was granted bail.

"Was it because [the victim] was a woman?" one student asked. "Was it because she was a native woman? There are 10,000 women on campus, who will defend our rights?"

At an Oct. 6 preliminary hearing, Provincial Court Judge John Guy ruled that sufficient evidence existed to send the case to trial.

The trial date will be set December 8. Crown prosecutor Dale Tesarowski estimated that the trial will probably not begin until next spring.

A publication ban was imposed on the details of the case.

Canadian University Press (CUP) is a national organization made up of over 40 student papers from St. John's to Victoria. CUP enables student papers to exchange stories and ideas through the wire service, regional and national conferences. As a founding member of CUP, the Dalhousie Gazette makes sure that our university news becomes national news.

news

Prominent lawyers debate prostitution

Right or slavery?

by Tamara Dinelle

Anne Derrick and Joel Pink's November 9 debate in Dalhousie's McInnes room was an education outside the classroom that the university could not lecture on.

Entitled "Should Prostitution be Decriminalized?", this fundraiser for the non-profit street outreach organization, Stepping Stone, gave opposing perspectives on the legalities of prostitution and stirred a discussion over a subject that few people at Dalhousie are aware of, and many people tend to shun.

Hosted by *Street Legal's* C. David Johnson, the two-and-a-half-hour debate featured Pink, opposed to decriminalization, and Derrick, in favour of taking the current laws out of the criminal code. Also present to talk about the issue of decriminalizing prostitution was sex-trade professional Deborah Perry, who enlightened the audience about the myths of prostitution, and a panel which included Bill MacLeod of the Halifax Police Depart-

ment, Lana MacLean of the Nova Scotia Association of Black Social Workers and Vince Calderhead of Metro Legal Aid.

The current laws against prostitution make street solicitation illegal, while the actual act of prostitution is not. Pink, a graduate of Dalhousie Law

Perry enlightened the audience about the myths of prostitution.

School, feels that these laws are adequate. He bases his argument on the discussion of the "pimp-prostitute" relationship which he sees as based on "coercive and abusive behaviour". He feels that this business relationship consists of financial exploitation and extends beyond the workplace. "The

pimp-prostitute relationship turns from what is normal business into what becomes slavery," he said. He also feels that there is great conflict between the prostitute and the community.

Derrick rebutted Pink's argument by discussing the socio-economic injustices in today's society. Also a graduate of Dalhousie Law School and a partner in the all-women's law firm of Buchan, Derrick and Ring. Derrick stated that "women are socially and economically marginalized" and that because of these reasons "women should be able to choose without being punished if they wish to work in the sex trade." She feels that the current laws against soliciting have "taken the power out of the hands of women" and "make criminals out of women who are trying to finance the basic commodities of life, such as food and shelter." Derrick rejected the idea of the legalization of prostitution as she feels that it makes the state "the pimp". However, all "non-coercive prostitution-related activities" should be decriminalized or not be punishable, she said.

Comedy spoofs men

by Meg Murphy

Don't let the name fool you. Norman Nawrocki's one-man cabaret performance called "I Don't Understand Women!" is a welcome departure from the stereotypical stand-up comedy routines depicting women as irrational creatures forever to remain a mystery to the confounded male. Finally, an escape from the tired lines pondering why women go to the bathroom in packs, or warning against the emotional frenzies of a girlfriend with PMS. Instead, Nawrocki's act is both a humorous and sensitive portrayal of the frustrating gulf between the sexes. He performed in the McInnes Room on the Dalhousie Student Union Building at 8 pm on Wednesday, November 10.

Nawrocki says he put this show together because of the backlash towards women which became increasingly apparent after the Montreal Massacre of 1989, when 14 women were killed by a gunman in the école polytechnique de Montréal. He was living with a girlfriend at the time and "she came home crying and talking about how the harassment was getting worse. That was the turning point for me — I realized I had to talk to other

guys about this."

During his hour-long performance Nawrocki encourages men to take a good look at some of the misconceptions they have about women. He allows them to laugh at themselves. He tries to break down the barriers which make it so difficult for many males to talk to each other about relationships, homosexuality, rape, and incest. He

"It's like girls... I mean women... oh hell..."

promotes respect for the female sex and sensitivity towards the injustices women face in society.

The amazing part? He does it all without lecturing. People laugh, and sometimes come close to tears, during this short performance which manages to portray even the most difficult subjects in a comfortable and thought-provoking manner. There are few people who would not be moved into a re-evaluation of values by at least one of

the segments in this performance.

Why does the show 'work'? In his words, "Men see themselves and they see their girlfriends; they hear themselves and they hear their girlfriends... the show pushes people's buttons." It is funny and light for the most part. But, when talking about serious subjects like incest and rape, there is no joking around. As Nawrocki says, "They laugh but then I hit them with the one-two punch."

He transforms from one character to the next, portraying over a dozen personas throughout the course of his many sketches. At one point he is the confused lover 'Ricky' taking a long bathroom break and talking to his 'partner' about what it is like to be a man. Ricky confides, "You know, being a guy today is like having a dangerous occupation. You always got to watch your tongue. There's no more rules. The rules are always changing so fast. It's like girls...I mean women...oh, hell...girls know something we don't, know what I mean, partner?"

Later, Nawrocki is Ricky's dead uncle, a reflective soul who watches

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WEEK OF REFLECTION Schedule of Events

11 am-3 pm
noon-4
2 pm
7 pm

Monday November 22
SUB Lobby: Info table
Green Room: Women's art show
Room 307, SUB: Art workshop for women
Green Room, SUB: Film "Full Circle"

11:30 am-1 pm
1:30 pm-3 pm
7 pm

Tuesday November 23
Dal Women's Centre: Wise Women Brown Bag lunch
Dal Women's Centre: Women and stress workshop
Room 307, SUB: Film series "Talk 16" and "Talk 19"

6:30 pm

Wednesday November 24
McInnes Room, SUB: December 6 Vigil

11:30 am-1 pm
2 pm

Thursday November 25
Green Room, SUB: Campus assault discussion
Dal Women's Centre: Discussion group on violence against women

4 pm

Friday November 26
Green Room, SUB: Open mike and coffeehouse