

Women can sue cops for negligence

TORONTO (CUP) — A recent Ontario Supreme Court ruling may open the door for women to sue universities for failing to give information about sexual assaults on campus.

In a precedent-setting decision, the Ontario Supreme Court last week ruled that Jane Doe, a rape victim, could sue the Toronto Metropolitan Police force for negligence.

Doe said the police failed to give her equal protection under the law from a rapist in her area. Her name was on the police's list of potential victims, but she was never contacted or warned.

Christie Jefferson, executive director of Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF), said the decision has serious implications for university security forces.

"Universities have been notorious for not warning women and not taking precautions for women's security," she said. If the case succeeds, it will become easier for women to hold university administrations directly accountable for failing to give adequate protection, she said.

And she said the fall-out from a possible victory will be widespread. "There will be immediate implications for the rest of Canada, not only with this case, but with examples of domestic violence," she said. If police ignore a case of an assault by a man against his lover or spouse, they face a lawsuit later on, she added.

Student funding slashed again?

OTTAWA (CUP) — Student groups are outraged at the prospect of further federal cutbacks to post-secondary education funding.

Finance Minister Michael Wilson said last week that he would not rule out further cutbacks in transfer payments to provinces in the next federal budget, expected in February or March.

Post-secondary institutions and health and other social programs are partially funded by the payments.

"Disastrous" is how Jane Arnold, chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, described the prospect of more cuts to transfer payments.

Arnold said that more cuts mean provinces have to look elsewhere for more revenue. That may mean higher tuition fees, she said.

Since 1977, transfer payments have been cut five times. Last year, payments were cut by \$870 million. Last year's budget predicted a cut of \$1.5 billion this year.

The federal government provides 50 to 60 per cent of funding for post-secondary education, with the provincial government and tuition fees providing the rest.

If funding is decreased or discontinued, education costs may have to be covered by increased provincial funding, based on tax increases, and tuition fees.

York U. fears Anti-Arab targeting

TORONTO (CUP) — Recent bomb threats at York University have raised fears that Arab-Canadian students could become racial scapegoats and Jewish students could be victimized in a potential climate of heightened intolerance.

The threats began on Jan. 17, the day after war began in the Middle East. Although Central Square was evacuated on the 17th, disruptions have been kept to a minimum as York Security has developed routines to deal with the calls.

York's security department has made bomb threat information available through a recorded message hotline. The recording states: "If you notice any suspicious objects or persons, please advise York Security immediately."

Political science professor David McNally said the words "suspicious persons" can lead to singling out students of Arab descent as targets.

"Taking into context the atmosphere of the situation, one can argue that in fact, it does cast aspersions on Arab students," McNally said. "This targets Arab-Canadians as potential violent 'opponents,' creating an 'us and them' mentality, and it implies that we've something to fear from Arabs in Canada."

NEWS

Magazine puts Gulf War in perspective

by Jerry West

"Motivated by a desire to learn and offer information about the Persian Gulf crisis..." is the opening phrase of *Gulf War in perspective*, a recent Halifax-based magazine.

Apparently the magazine's publishers have succeeded. The publication offers historical, scientific and emotional viewpoints on the war, without the usual media euphemisms.

Far from being a rhetorical diatribe on the evils of war, *perspective* is a serious look at the reasons for, and the consequences of military action in the gulf.

In an article on the history of the Kurdish people Frank J. Fawson raises questions about how best to help the victims of Iraqi oppression: "Sanctions seemed a weak and futile response after hearing [a Kurd] relive the horror of an Iraqi government chemical weapons attack," he says. Although Fawson has no solution to the Kurds' problem, he leaves no doubt as to the harm caused by British, French and American military "assistance" in the past.

The magazine's contributors range from an elementary school student to college professors, journalists, war veterans and the Canadian Physicians against Nuclear War, a group which received a Nobel Peace laureate.

"*Perspective* was formed to ensure that the public knows the uncensored truth about the war Canada is now waging," says Robert Carlson, one of the volunteer staff.

With the help of a number of students organizations, peace and development agencies, *perspective* is offered free throughout the Atlantic provinces.

A spokesperson for the magazine says one of the intentions of *perspective* is to get information into the hands of people who would

not otherwise hear how the Muslim, black, native and other communities in Halifax feel about the war.

Perspective is still in the process of being distributed to universities, laundromats, corner stores and other locations accessible to the public.



Sherri Cline, Xander Boston, and Peter Davison "spread the word" as they distribute copies of *perspective*.

Photo: Paul Webster

Summer jobs may melt away

by Andy Riga

OTTAWA (CUP) — Students will probably find the pickings slim when they hit the streets hunting for summer work this year.

Summer unemployment soared to 17.4 per cent at the height of the 1982 recession for those aged 15 to 24. And forecasters — predicting a tough year ahead — warn the current deepening recession could leave students out in the cold again this summer.

"The summer job market is usually the first hit" during an economic downturn, said Mary Giamos of the University of Toronto's career centre.

Current job listings are not as numerous as in the past, Giamos said, although she noted that "that doesn't mean there aren't any jobs out there. It might mean that employers don't have to advertise as much as previously because there

are so many people looking for employment."

The spring and summer could be bleak for anybody looking for work. The national unemployment rate for all ages — hovering at about 9 per cent late last year — could reach 9.7 per cent this spring, according to the Conference Board of Canada, an independent research institute.

Even Youth Minister Marcel Danis, who announced this year's federal summer job program Feb. 4, warned students about employment prospects, although he seemed leery of using the R-word.

The government added \$3 million to this year's Challenge program because "it is expected that job prospects may be somewhat more difficult in the current economic climate," Danis said at a news conference.

The extra cash will go into the SEED (Summer Employment/

Experience Development) program, which provides wage subsidies to employers creating summer jobs.

Start pounding the pavement early, is the advice Silvia Sioufi, researcher for the Canadian Federation of Students, is giving those who need summer work. And, she said, don't expect too much help from federal programs.

"They have added some money [to Challenge], but they haven't taken into account the recession and they're certainly not making up for the millions that have been cut from the program since it started in 1985," said Silvia Sioufi, researcher for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

Back in 1985, \$150 million went to SEED. "They've almost cut SEED in half over the past six years when the need has been constantly increasing," Sioufi said.