

## Scummy Poster

by t clive thompson iii

TORONTO (CUP) — A poster in a University of Toronto residence has been called homophobic and "disgusting" by administrators and campus activists, but the residence's dean says there is no policy against it.

The poster appeared after the campus paper, *The Varsity*, published a special lesbian and gay men supplement Feb. 26. The poster criticized the paper for excessive coverage of gay and lesbian issues.

It remained up for about five days.

"I am not against homosexuality," it concluded. "I'm against ever having to read about them again. Back in the closets and washroom stalls you bunch of degenerates."

U of T Assistant Vice-President Student Affairs David Neelands said the poster "goes beyond bad taste."

"I think that calling gays and lesbians 'degenerates' is totally inappropriate. I'm disgusted."

Residence dean Garry Spencer said there is no rule prohibiting residents from putting up homophobic material on bulletin boards.

The poster was gone from the residence, which houses primarily engineering students, by Mar. 3. Spencer said he does not know who put it up or took it down, and never actually saw the poster, or heard any complaints.

## Curbing students

by Christina Talford

OTTAWA (CUP) — Carleton students who took a second-year religion course had their marks lowered because "students are not able to earn marks that high," university officials say.

Sessional lecturer Gillian Smith, refused to lower the final marks for her "Death and Afterlife" course when the department first asked. But Smith later decided to re-mark the students to prevent the department from failing half the class.

"I will never teach at Carleton again," she said. "If I made the course too easy then it was my mistake — the students should not be penalized."

Religion department chair Steve Wilson said Smith's first set of marks were unnaturally high. "120 students don't all get As and Bs. It never happens, experience has shown me that it wouldn't."

Some students in the course were shocked by the department's policy.

Charmaine Cartier, a second-year student said the incident is a poor reflection on Carleton. Cartier had her parents write a letter to Yalden.

"They're telling you you're an A+ student, but you really don't deserve to be," said Cartier.

## Racism Down

by Ann Shin

TORONTO (CUP) — Anti-Semitism is on the decline on Canadian university campuses, according to a human rights group report.

According to the Human Rights League of B'nai Brith Canada, reported incidents of anti-Semitic harassment and vandalism on university campuses were ten per cent of the nationwide total in 1988. At 176, there were more reported incidents in 1989 — tripling the 1987 figure — but fewer happened on university campuses.

"However, these numbers are dependent on reported incidents so it is not necessarily indicative of student attitudes," said Lorne Shipman, National Project Coordinator for the League.

But both Steve Mermelstein, vice president of the Jewish Student's Union at the University of Toronto and Michael Lamber, President of the JSU at U of T's campus in the Toronto suburb of Scarborough said they didn't see any anti-Semitic sentiment on campus.

"There haven't been any incidents or reports of incidents at Scarborough that I know of," Lamber said. "I personally don't see (anti-Semitism) as a problem on campus."

Rabbi Silverman at the JSU agreed and said although students mentioned there were swastika graffiti in some washrooms, there have not been any other incidents of harassment or vandalism reported.

# Woman raped on Memorial campus

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — University and police officials at Memorial are playing down an assault of a female student on campus.

Student housing director Brian Johnston said the woman walked across campus alone. "I understand (the student who was assaulted) didn't take some of the precautions she should have."

Peggy Keats of the St. John's Rape Crisis Centre said women can't prevent assaults by not walking alone. "They have every right to do so," she said. "It's disgusting (that people think) women must try and prevent assaults."

The incident took place after midnight Feb. 25 in the stairwell of a pedestrian overpass, linking the north and south sides of campus.

Johnston said the stairwell is well lit and used frequently. "I would have thought it was one of the safe places on campus."

Keats said it was good that the area was lit, but it's irrelevant. "Not a lot of women report attacks at universities because of the peer pressure and close proximity to strangers."

Johnston said he does not think there is a problem with dangerous areas on campus and his office has improved areas that seem especially risky.

"We will investigate again," he said, "but we feel we have done what is reasonable. We've installed new lights in areas that were dark. I'm generally satisfied."

Johnston said he has received no other reports of similar incidents this year although he added they have probably happened in the past. "We have very few problems given the size of the campus."

Keats said she "can think of at least one (Memorial) student who has contacted the centre in the past three months."

Johnston emphasized awareness as a means of preventing further problems.

He said his office arranges for the local police to run its "Lady Beware" program in the residen-

**Men...  
don't have  
the right  
to rape**

ces every fall. The program is designed to inform women about how to protect themselves against assault and other crimes.

As a response to the recent assault, Johnston said, his office held another session of the program last night.

Keats said it is not only women that should take part in these programs. "Men have to educate themselves that they don't have the right to rape."

"More women are beaten and raped in their own homes, the supposedly safest place they could be, or by someone they know, not by some stranger popping out of a bush," Keats said.

**...no reason  
to believe  
that there  
was a rape**

A police official said they had "no reason to believe at this time that there was a rape," but added the incident might be classified as a sexual assault, because the Criminal Code classifies many types of assault as "sexual."

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