

## Symposium on pornography held at OISE last Sunday

By GREG GAUDET

"Every pornographic picture treats people as though they are no more. Real men do not violate other human beings."

That was the message relayed to approximately 750 people at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) by Dr. Reginald Stackhouse, Wycliffe College, U of T last Sunday. The occasion was a day-long symposium on media violence and pornography. Experts, media representatives, religious leaders, and feminists from the U.S. and Canada addressed the capacity audience on issues ranging from child pornography to violence in sports.

The symposium was sponsored by the Action Group on Media Pornography, the Canadian Coalition Against Violent Entertainment and the National Coalition on Television Violence.

A highlight of the symposium was the impassioned address by Andrea Dworkin, author of *Pornography: Men Possessing Women*. Calling pornography "the sexualized subordination of women," Dworkin said she was "outraged that someone has to study whether hanging a woman from a meat hook causes harm or not." She argued that pornography is an extension of male supremacy, and that in a system where women are exploited, people grow up to think this is normal.

One way women are "sexually subordinated" is through the portrayal in films and magazines of women enjoying rape. It's known as "rape myth." According to Dr. Wendy Stock, a sexual violence researcher, "men are taught the positive thing is 'scoring,' and exposure to pornography depicting 'rape myth' reinforces this notion.

Although pornography showing women forced to have sex and enjoying it may not cause men to rape women, experts at the symposium presented evidence indicating that men, after being subjected to films showing such scenes, became desensitized to rape and were increasingly inclined to believe the images they had seen.

Rape myth is part of a larger problem: the juxtaposition of sex with violence. Dr. Edward Donnerstein, another researcher, showed a film clip from *The Toolbox Murders*, a movie with an

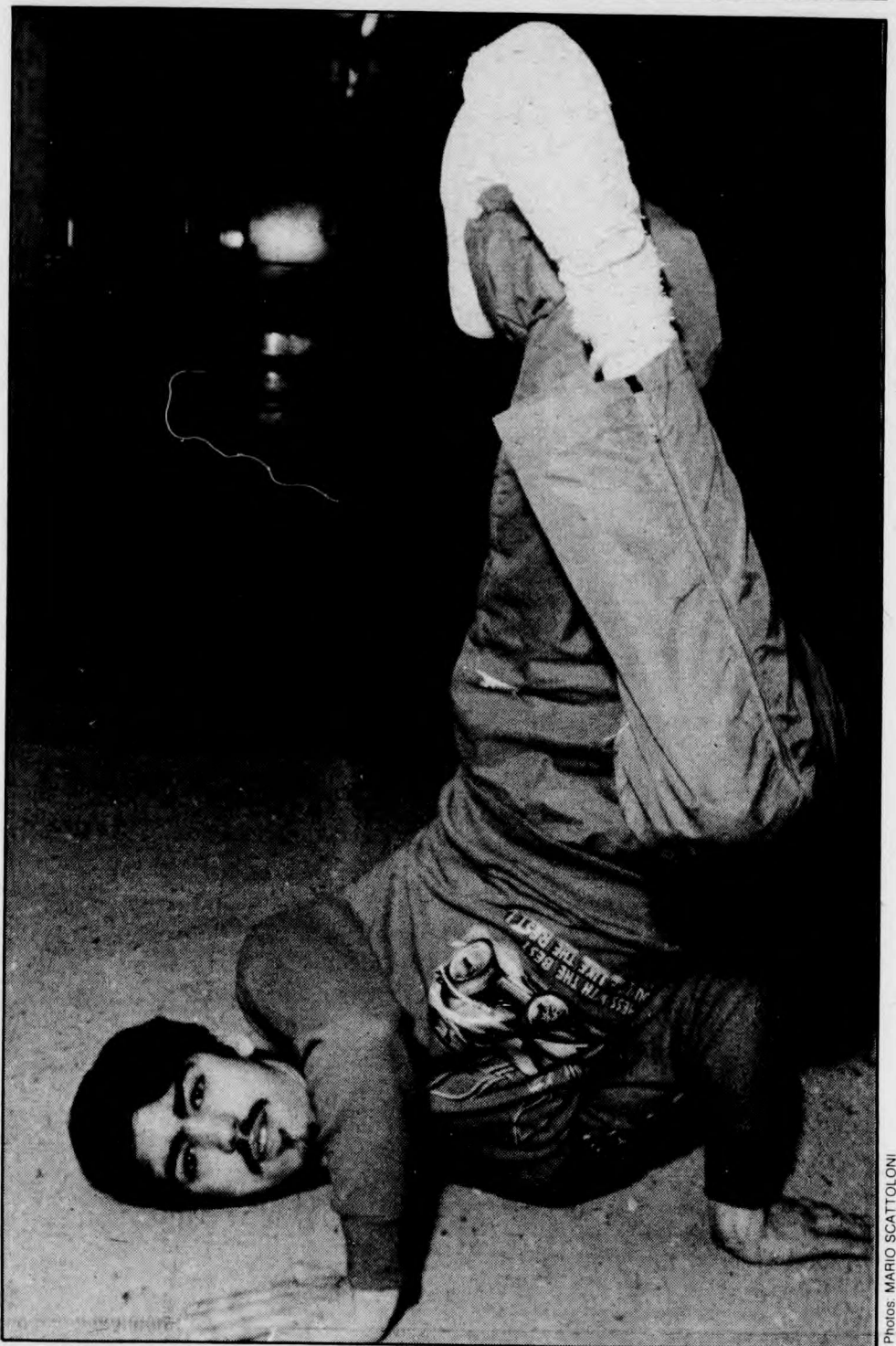
"R" rating. A woman was shown masturbating just before being shot in the chest and through the head with a large staple gun. Several speakers addressed the issue of violence taking place during or just after sex. They argued that the issue is not one of sex, but of power. Stock said that "pornography represents social control over women."

George Gerbner, a professor from the Annenberg School of Communications, discussed the political dynamics of media violence. He outlined how in 1977, the three major U.S. TV networks scuttled an attempt by the U.S. House Subcommittee on Communications to report on media violence. The Subcommittee looked at the structure of broadcasting and how the system restricts viewing choice and contributes to violent shows. According to Gerbner, the networks lobbied heavily to have the final report redrafted to "shift the blame from the structure and focus on the symptoms."

One of the more controversial speakers at the symposium was Toronto Rabbi Elyse Goldstein. She spoke on ethics, saying "it is time the clergy identified sexual violence as a sin." She noted that the church had not yet addressed the issue properly. "When a wife confesses to her clergy that her husband is beating her," she said, "it is a sin for her clergyman to tell her it is her wifely duty to take those blows."

Technology is also being used increasingly with pornography. Dr. Judy Reisman, from the Office of Juvenile Justice, American University, said that computers are now used to airbrush photographs of women in pornographic magazines. Computers are also used by pederasts to store and send information on children with whom they have had sex. FBI agent Ken Lanning showed charts that pederasts had kept with statistics on the number of sexual acts they had performed with children.

The symposium did not go without its detractors. A leaflet was distributed outside OISE objecting to the \$40 registration fee (suggesting a lower fee for the poor and unemployed), the lack of childcare facilities, and the large number of men speaking on what is primarily a "women's issue."



Photos: MARIO SCATTOLONI

Freestyle dance champion Lou Navarro hails from New York where he is a member of the New York Breakers dance troupe. Here Navarro displays some of the moves that have attracted world wide attention to this athletic form of dance.

## Violent pornography too accessible says N D P MP McDonald

By STUART MOSCOE

The worst problem with pornography featuring violence and children is that it's becoming increasingly accessible, according to New Democratic Party MP Lynn McDonald.

McDonald, who spoke at Atkinson College on Tuesday evening, said that most of this kind of pornography is imported from the U.S. "where it is produced by the Mafia."

She said the increase in pornography is related to the rise of the women's movement in North America, and that this type of pornography promotes attacks on women.

Much pornography today is protected by our right to freedom of expression, guaranteed in the Canadian Charter of Rights. But

McDonald said that right should not be interpreted as the freedom to display "women on the rack." She said this pornography is produced mainly by men and "indicative of their attitude towards women."

She made several proposals about how pornography should be regulated. She suggested that only certain milk stores carry pornography, that a 100 percent tax be placed on its sale, and that the government not provide tax breaks to hotels showing pornography in private rooms.

Concerning porn on pay-TV, McDonald said the law preventing pay channels from displaying material that discriminates on the

amended to disallow sexually-demeaning programming.

In addition, McDonald said pornography broadcast from satellites and displayed in bars, hotels, and apartment buildings should be disallowed by an international treaty, so that foreign programs circumventing the federal government's control over satellite broadcasting could not be beamed into Canada.

McDonald said the major positions of power in Canada are occupied by men, and that usually men only see this as a problem if asked how they would feel in the same position as "women are presently in."

"For women to ever achieve equality, pornography must be eliminated," McDonald said.



Photo: STEWART MOSCOE

NDP MP Lynn McDonald

## WISE women must break tradition to enter good careers

By L. STARR

"Women believe in the ancient myths, but if you want more for children you cannot stay at home and lead a traditional life," said Dormer Ellis, national president of Women in Science and Engineering (WISE), at a seminar for women interested in science-oriented careers.

The seminar, sponsored by the York Career Centre, was held last Wednesday in the Calumet Common Room to an audience of about 25.

Ellis said that women used to believe that once artificial career barriers were removed they would become equal partners in the workplace. Yet, despite the fact that there is no biological evidence for their exclusion, traditional beliefs and customs are still hampering women's entrance into the workforce, said Ellis.

The stereotypical belief that women do not need to develop their own careers because the can depend on their husband's income has induced many women to make poor academic choices, excluding them from lucrative careers in the sciences, Ellis said. "Your standard of living is affected by your choices at university level," both for the children and in the pleasure

of having an interesting career, she said.

Audrey Swail, representing the Women's Bureau of the Ontario Ministry of Labor at the seminar, is encouraging "women to take their proper place in the workforce."

"The Human Rights Charter is not enough," she said. "Opening doors isn't enough. Women entering science are still considered pioneers."

"Women in science must talk to other women, take control of their own lives," she continued. "We must question our goals and our values and say—what do I really want out of it?"

Etta Wharton, of Ontario Hydro's Planning and Administrative department, described the employment situation in the sciences field as "pretty bleak."

"Women are cut off from science careers without grade 13 math," Wharton said. "Your career is affected by your sex."

She also discussed what she called the "dual ladder concept," saying that she believed the technical ladder was a "shorter route to success. If a promotion to management becomes available, and if doing science turns you on, maybe you should decide to stay a working scientist."



This panel of experts chaired the "Careers for Women in Science" seminar

Introducing herself as a "jack of all trades," Karen McNeil, McLaren Engineering Corp., offered practical advice to the B. Sc. seeking employment: "Be prepared to be aggressive. Résumés bring rejection," she said. "Use the telephone. Speak to personnel. Tell them you want to work for them and ask if you can send a résumé."

She suggested job seekers be "gung-ho, ask questions, but don't beg," and that the job

applicant should investigate the company background so as to be knowledgeable during the interview.

McNeil suggested that the potential science graduate gain a variety of skills while at university, particularly business skills. She also encouraged students to be selective about the companies they apply to so that "you do not dead-end yourself" in a static business.

Photo: STEWART MOSCOE