

Women in "male stream"

by Elisabeth Eid

"Women are bored with and feel alienated from male-stream politics," says Jill Vickers of the Political Science department at Carleton University.

Vickers was invited by the Canadian Studies Department to speak on "Canadian Women in Politics."

"Fifty-two per cent of our population is female," says Vickers. And virtually none of this percentage is reflected in parliament."

The absence of women in politics can be explained by the nature of male-stream (or male-dominated) politics.

According to Vickers, male-stream politics emerged from the historical belief that men should control the public sector of society while women should participate in the private.

Vickers said, "Men made a separation between the public and the private sectors" — defining only the public as political.

Today women assert the "personal is the political."

Vickers feels male-oriented agendas must be changed to incorporate women's concerns.

"Sexual harassment, feminization of poverty, child abuse," said Vickers, are some of the issues women feel are neglected on agendas.

The women's movement has heightened female awareness of access to politics.

The Canadian movement is fragmented in comparison to U.S. and British movements, Vickers said. "The movement is regionally organized, with centers around Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and other major cities."

The emergence of French feminism, the native women's movement and other social cleavages are reflected in the movement said Vickers. And although these factions maintain their unique characteristics, they are still closely aligned with the white-Anglophone movement.

"Canada has some 600 broadly structured organizations with very few linked to political parties," said

Vickers. She suggests although potential fragmentation exists within the Canadian movement, it is also bonded together by common goals which cross all cultural and party lines.

According to Vickers, women's politics is based on two ideologies: the integrationist and the transformist. Both ideologies define a more activist role in the male-dominated politics.

The integration of women into the political process is an approach that has not been entirely successful. Vickers said, "the price of admission into the system is often costly," forcing candidates to become "one of the boys."

The transformist ideology seeks to restructure the existing political system. Vickers sees one change as "placing the nominating process



Carleton prof. Vickers says women feel neglected by male-dominated political agendas.

under electoral law." This would ensure that nominating meetings are not undermined and that women are given a fair chance to advance at the polls.

"Women want their share of the political pie," said Vickers, and are going to make sure that the "man's house is no longer his castle."

Yard Apes

by Hans Beckers



continued from page 1

the poorly lit campus.

"The recent attack of a woman at the athletic centre was the straw that broke the camel's back" says residence dweller Dianne Selt.

"What we're stressing is that common sense is the best preventative measure," she said. "That's where the walk-home service fits in."

At Wilfred Laurier, students gather at a common meeting place and walk home together. The scheme has been operating since September.

The McMaster student council voted in September to spend \$6080 on a drive-home service for students who must stay on campus late at

night. The van will have a two-way radio to ensure contact with campus security is maintained and it is expected the service will be used primarily by library staff and nurses.

At McGill University, new lights have been installed to help make the campus safer, but the physical plant manager says students must still realize McGill is not a safe place after dark.

"The important thing is to make people aware of the danger," says A.J. Rostaing. "Some people are naive and this is a big metropolis."

Carleton is not particularly safe either, said walk-home organizer Marty O'Grady. "To improve safety on campus, we need better lighting. But the cost factor will cause problems."

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