



Jim Crawley feels his homosexuality has cost him Connection job.

Alex Wolosewycz

'Racist' posters anger Glendon student body

Posters portraying female Nazis whipping each other and exhorting women to dress-up for Radio Glendon's first annual Kinky Crazy Kristmas Dance have met with strong reaction from Glendon students and the Dean of Students, W. Gutwinski, who ordered them taken down last week.

The advertisements for last weekend's dance were put up Tuesday and according to Radio Glendon manager Eric Schasmin, "Right away, the next day, the complaints started pouring in." He says, "The Dean called me to his office and he told me to take them down." However, a new censored version in which the women were partially covered as well as a French poster showing a woman with a whip wrapped around her leg were allowed to remain.

Schasmin, who says the inspiration for the posters came from copies of Penthouse lying in the Glendon Student Union office, maintains "The posters were meant to be all in fun. Maybe the complaints were justified but it was only a cartoon after all. It was not a real picture. It was an eye-catching poster, it was not meant to offend."

Glendon students with whom *Excalibur* spoke disagreed. They point out that in addition to advocating sado-masochism the posters were racist. Ricarda Amberg, a third-year student states, "The posters clearly exploit women. They also have racist undertones because the women talk with a German accent, wear Nazi helmets and there's KKK on the posters." Radio Glendon is funded by the Glendon Student Union and another student, Jane Kirkwood, says, "I didn't like having to look at the pictures and I didn't like my money going to pay for them." A complaint was to have been lodged at a Monday meeting of the student council, but the meeting was cancelled.

Some students were so angered by the posters that they tore them down themselves. As a result, Schasmin offered to make a deal, "I told them that if they wouldn't tear any more of my signs I would let them in free."

Schasmin believes that, despite the protests, the dance was a success. He says about one hundred and fifty people attended the event, but adds, "We didn't get all that many people wearing costumes and there was nothing totally outrageous. There were a few whips and chains, that's all."

Michael Monastyrskij

Professors plead religion but union wants just dues

P.J. Todd

Nine York professors don't want to pay their union dues to the York University Faculty Association (YUFA), but want to donate their fees to charity instead. Their bid to reallocate their union dues (currently 75% of base salary) is under consideration by the Ontario Labour Relations Board's tribunal this month. Each dissenting professor, appearing separately before the 3-member panel, will attempt to persuade the Board that their religious beliefs prohibit participation in union activities.

According to Prof. Granatstein (History) past president of YUFA, the trouble began last year when a change in provincial legislation made union fee payments from each faculty member mandatory. Previously, since 1976 when the union was founded, any member who "conscientiously objected" to paying union dues could contribute an equivalent sum to a university charity or bursary. About 150 members chose this option. But the

new legislation last year threw many members who had "opted out - back in" and now a faculty member can only claim exemption to due payments if such participation is incompatible with their "religious conviction or belief". Consequently, says Prof. Granatstein, "some faculty members have suddenly found God."

Four of the nine dissenters have already testified in hearings at the Board's University Avenue offices. Prof. Douglas Butler (Chemistry), the first to appear, failed to convince the panel that his religious beliefs prohibits union involvement. Judgements are being reserved on the remaining cases with official statements expected in about one month.

Because the hearings are still in progress, YUFA officials have issued a firm "no comment". They do, however, suggest that interested students and faculty attend the hearings which are open to the public. The remaining hearings will be held December 15, 17, 22 and 23.

No connection for Crawley

Mike Guy

A candidate for the position of coordinator of the floundering Campus Connection has charged that he was denied the job because he is gay and will be taking his case to the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Jim Crawley, co-founder of the Futures Research Institute of the University of Windsor, and the acting president of the Gay Alliance, believes "there is reasonable and probable cause to believe my sexual orientation has affected the CYSF's decision." He states he told the Search Committee he was gay, after he was asked what he thought of homosexuality.

Crawley says, "The Human Rights Commission was called yesterday and they were told the case would be referred to them if it fits within their mandate." Crawley said a formal letter will have been sent by today. Crawley sees the issue as being broader than one of equal rights for gays and maintains that other minorities could be hurt by a similar decision.

David Kelly, CYSF Director of Communications and Student Services, and head of the student

council's Search Committee, denies that Crawley's sexual orientation influenced the CYSF's rejection of his application. In making his argument, Kelly points to a letter in which he "encouraged Crawley to come out and participate in the Campus Connection and any other student activity."

Because of the inactivity of the Campus Connection, Crawley has called on the Women's Centre to join with the Gay Alliance to form a joint coalition to educate the York Community on what he sees as the pressing need to re-open the Campus Connection. Crawley says he has received strong support from the Steering Committee of the Women's Centre.

CYSF President Gaudet acknowledges that "we were slow looking for a coordinator, because there was a lack of formal structure in the organization of the Campus Connection. Also when one is searching for a coordinator, he has to be extremely cautious so as to find the right person."

On the other hand he maintains, "The CYSF has shown more concrete action toward the Campus Connection than other organizations. It seems that no one else wanted to take on the job of finding a coordinator, so we took it."

New novel establishes York author

Gilbert living fairytale existence

Ian Bailey

"Everything that has happened to me so far is a fairytale". This is how Michael Gilbert, a York Philosophy Professor, describes his writing career thus far. Gilbert, who teaches Second and Third year Logic and Rhetoric as well as the Theory of Dispute, has accomplished a rare feat for a Canadian writer. He has published his first novel with Linden Press, an American Publishing house that is part of the publishing giant Simon & Shuster.

The novel which is called "Office Party" is a psychological thriller exploring what happens when a mild-mannered employee in an ordinary Ohio office suddenly takes his three co-workers hostage for no apparent reason. The novel delves into the psychology of the group and the changes and revelations of the dark side in their personalities that occur in the difficult situation.

Professor Gilbert wrote the bulk of the novel during his sabbatical in 1980 and 1981. He had written part of it the year before. Gilbert described the writing of the novel itself as difficult pointing out that it required a great deal of discipline and the setting and following of schedules. When writing full-time the Professor wrote 1000 words a day. He worked during the day and continued late into the evening as was necessary to reach his self imposed deadline.

The book required little pre-planning. Professor Gilbert wrote the first 100 pages without even deciding on a form for the story. The novel emerged with him thinking 15 pages ahead of what he was writing.

The rough form of what became "Office Party" went through 8 drafts, including four full rewrites before it was ready for publication. A (half-completed) version was sent off to a New York agent. A positive response came and Gilbert finished the first draft. He and the editor worked on the several following drafts. The Professor described four stages of anguish in the creation of any book. "Can you finish it?" "Can you publish it?" "Are the rewrites in publishable form?" and finally when the book comes out to face the reviews. He said that he would cry over a bad review but that more anguishing was no review at all.

The Professor seemed relaxed



York author Michael Gilbert knows how to win an argument.

as he talked in his sixth floor office in the Ross building. With a moderately thick beard, large rimmed glasses and wearing a cord jacket, turtle neck and slacks he seemed every bit the writer as he went on to describe his feelings about the book.

In commenting about the novel Professor Gilbert said that in his first novel he wanted to avoid classical first novel errors. He wanted it to be non-autobiographical and the everyday setting of "Office Party" also fulfilled several themes he wanted to explore. "The book has a lot to say about the existential elements of life," said the Professor. "It describes how pressures can bring out different aspects of personality which are garbed in roles." Other themes explored in the book included that of, "Explanation" the process of detailing of incidents coming through filters. Another theme which fascinated Gilbert was that of, "Fault". We never really find out who is at fault in the novel and Gilbert raises the question of whether fault is really that easy to peg. A salient point about the novel is its deft use of psychology in examining the situation and Gilbert confessed to having some familiarity with psychology which he injected into the book, though he tended to not rely on it too much.

Professor Gilbert had his novel published in the United States and injected it with an American setting for several reasons. The main one being some bad experiences he had suffered with Canadian publishers. He had been misled on several contracts with Canadian publishers. Another reason was the financial aspect which looked better south of the border. A fundamental reason for giving the book its Ohio setting as well as publishing it in America was simply that

Gilbert is a native New Yorker and he had his roots and his connections there.

"Office Party" is Michael Gilbert's first novel, but it is not his first published book. In 1979 he had his non-fiction work, "How to Win an Argument", published. The book grew out of a non-credit adult course he was teaching and had designed on argument. The publishers asked for a book on the subject and he made the choice to write a popular readable book rather than an academic text. Though ignored by the philosophical community the book enjoyed wide popularity and will be in print for the next few years. It was while writing a series of fictional dialogues for the book that Gilbert discovered a desire to write fiction that emerged into "Office Party". Gilbert said, "Of course" to the question of whether the tactics of negotiation demonstrated in "Argument" had played a role in his latest book.

Professor Gilbert pointed out that he is not out to write a bestseller. He writes because that is what he, "wants to be recognized for". If "Office Party" is any indication then he is well on the road to that objective.



Debbie Rabinovich sang at John Lennon memorial rally held Tuesday at York.

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