

"Spelling is so bizarre..."

# The Gateway

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...every word is spelled differently!"

B. S.

## Professor guilty of sexual harassment

by Bill Doskoch

In a precedent-setting case, a professor has been found guilty of sexual harassment.

The individual - an associate professor in the department of educational psychology - was fined \$2,000 and suspended for six months without pay, starting Jan. 1.

"The staff member's actions constituted unwelcome and unwarranted sexual advances, by word and deed, toward female students," said VP Academic Peter Meekison, who conducted the five month investigation.

The investigation commenced with the lodging of formal complaints by six female graduate students in educational psychology against eight staff members.

After a preliminary investigation, Meekison dismissed six of the complaints, saying they were based on sexism or hearsay and "common knowledge" complaints, but not sexual harassment.

Of the two that remained, he dismissed one because the testimony of the complainant differed from that of her classmates.

The convicted professor faced complaints from six students, five of which were related to teaching. The sixth was based on the fact that he "inappropriately provided psychological therapy to one of his own students, placing that student in an untenable position," said Meekison.

Meekison felt the case did not merit dismissal and when asked how severe he would rate the penalty imposed off a scale of ten, he said "a seven".

Under article 12 of the U of A Faculty Agreement, Meekison had



Photo Rob Schmidt

Sexual harassment is probably happening a lot at the university — what's being done to solve the problem? Photo representation

three options - besides recommending dismissal - a letter of reprimand or censure; a fine (the penalty imposed); or a reduction in salary.

For an associate professor at the bottom end of the salary scale, a six month suspension without pay would mean approximately \$19,000 and Meekison said the man had been on staff for a number of years.

When asked if he would consider it a firing offense if a professor offered grades for sex, Meekison replied "yes".

Meekison refused to divulge the name of the professor, saying the man had until the end of next week to appeal the decision.

When asked if the individual or any of the cases were involved with a weekend off-campus study re-

treat allegedly nicknamed the "Venus retreat", Meekison appeared puzzled and asked "what's a Venus retreat? I don't know that term".

Representatives from the Association of Academic Staff and the Non-Academic Staff Association refused comment on the issue, however, SU president Mike Nickel said the penalty was "definitely not

severe enough".

"If the accused is found guilty he should be dismissed. I would wager money he would do it again."

In a related story, Nickel still had nothing to show for the Sexual Harassment Task Force he announced on August 9, but promised an "awareness campaign" about the problem would commence within two weeks.

## Discovery may mean more funds for MS clinic

by Suzette C. Chan

The head of the U of A multiple sclerosis clinic hopes the announcement of a discovery which may lead to a cure for MS will generate funds for further research.

At a press conference yesterday, neurologist Dr. Ken Warren said that out of \$5 million sunk into the project since 1978 the university has contributed "not much" funding.

"The major source of funding has been from private benefactors from Northern Alberta" such as the Friends of the MS clinic, he said. "I had to work awfully hard to get funding."

Warren told the Gateway that the MS clinic, consisting of himself, a lab technician, another doctor and two nurses, unsuccessfully approached the university for funding in 1979 and again in 1981.

He said the university currently pays his salary as well as half that of his secretary.

"I think we can be more optimistic [about receiving more university money]," Warren speculated, keeping in mind financial restrictions on the university.

University officials could not be reached for comment.

Warren explained that Ingrid

Catz, a member of the MS research team, has developed a technique to detect the presence of the anti-body that attacks the myelin basic protein (MBP).

Myelin helps to conduct electricity from a nerve cell to its destination — a muscle fibre or another

nerve cell for example.

Multiple sclerosis is the condition wherein the myelin sheath is attacked and eroded by the anti-MBP.

"The more antibody [present], the more disease activity," said Warren.

He said the detection technique has been applied to patients in the Edmonton and Northern Alberta area with encouraging results.

However, he cautions that the discovery is far from a cure.

"The next step is to be sure that

the anti-body is actually it [what causes myelin sheath breakdown] and find what controls this anti-body."

He mentioned his team "knows what the next project is" but is keeping it a "secret" for now.

## Young women own worst enemies — Friedan

**MONTREAL (CUP)** — After years of battling the male-dominated world, a generation of feminists has come up against a new and puzzling problem: North American girls aren't interested in feminism. They are bored by the issues, alienated by the movement and turned off by the feminists themselves.

Feminists from all over the world speaking at the International Conference on the Status of Girls, and Betty Friedan, author of the *Feminine Mystique*, touched on the same theme.

They are worried that women will suffer a new wave of oppression if today's girls do not tune in to the urgency of working for lasting improvements in their political and social conditions.

Benoit Groult, a French author, told the conference that although



Graphic: Marie Clifford

Economic poverty, not pornography, is the real obscenity, says author Friedan.

anti-feminist rhetoric used to come from men, now it comes from women.

"Born liberated (the girls of the 70's and 80's), have a tendency to think that there is nothing left to fight or conquer," she said.

When asked the question "Do

you consider yourself a feminist?" several young CEGEP women interviewed said they'd never really thought about it, or they didn't care. One woman looked as if she'd been asked if she were a dung beetle.

However, some young women

have thought about it very carefully. Caroline Maxwell, a student at Vanier College, does not consider herself a feminist. "I like wearing make-up and I want to get married some day," she said, "but that doesn't mean I don't care about equality because I do. Those are things I want to do and I don't think there is anything wrong with that, but you can be made to think there is."

Sonja Larson, A Dawson College student, does not think her male friends are the problem. "They're doing the best they can," she said. "Feminism isn't the real issue. It's a system (or systems) where it's profitable to exploit women — in the media and in the workforce." For Larson, discrimination has to lose its profit appeal.

Betty Friedan, who spoke about **More 'feminism', page 6**