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**Wage gap widens**

(OTTAWA — CP) For the first time in at least 18 years, women lost ground in 1985 in the battle to reduce the wage gap with men. Statistics Canada reports that the average income for women working full-time last year was \$18,736, 69.9 per cent of that of their male counterparts.

Women made 65.5 cents for every dollar taken home by men in 1984. In 19867, women on average made only 58.4 per cent of what men did.

"It's really a cause for concern and reaffirms the need for legislation to deal with this problem," says Sylvia Gold, president of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

It costs a woman as much as it costs a man to buy food and housing, says Gold, and women with lower educational levels suffer the most. In 1985, women with a grade eight education or less earned 58.4 cents for every dollar men with the same levels of education did, while those with university degrees made 68.7 per cent of what university-educated men were paid. This trend has been evident since 1979, says Statistics Canada.

Gold says the results of the survey demonstrate that pay-equity legislation is necessary to improve women's wages.

Women in Prince Edward Island tend to earn 73.4 cents for every dollar men there do, while the gap is much wider in Nova Scotia, where women made only 61.7 per cent of their male counterparts' paycheques.

**Girls will be girls**

(Ottawa, University Affairs)

Despite some progress, educational equality for women remains largely elusive, says a recent report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

While increasing numbers of women complete secondary schooling and enter universities in the 24 countries OECD studied, few made it into the traditionally male dominated fields, and few receive top scholarships or make it through graduate school.

Universities world wide still have traditionally female faculties where subsequent job opportunities have been badly affected by labour market recession.

The report, "Girls and Women in Education", says women generally take courses in the humanities, arts and languages while men are predominant in the applied sciences. Women have made significant inroads in law and architecture, and in some countries, business management, commerce and administration, but the report says "there is little reason for complacency" about the status of women in education.

**Pigboys at UVic**

TORONTO (CUP) — The student council of Victoria University at the University of Toronto has let the wind out of a men's orientation ceremony that includes a physically accurate female inflatable doll and an object known as "the sacred muff".

In a recent meeting, council decided this year's orientation chair must "revise the hazing and sexist elements of the men's traditional orientation ceremony," said council president Marni Pyke.

Vic orientation ends with two secret ceremonies, one for men and one for women. The men's ceremony centres on the sacred muff, a piece of carpet soaked in fish oil and chicken blood which is meant to represent a large vagina. In the past, male frosh have been required to kneel and kiss the object, which is now nine years old.

Last September a new element was added. "They have to blow up a rubber doll with a vaginal opening that they were throwing around," Pyke said. She said she thought the whole issue was blown out of proportion, but "some Vic students found it objectionable."

According to council service commissioner Rosemary Newman, Vic women had not realised before what the ceremony contained. "We started talking to some guys, and we started to realise how offensive the whole thing was to women," she said.

Newman objects to such a ceremony at an institution "which is supposed to be enlightened. The first experience boys get when they arrive is a big put-down of women."

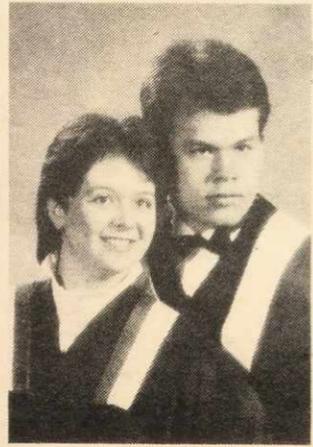
Ian Grant, a member of last fall's orientation executive, admitted the ceremony got out of hand, but insisted the sexist elements were not to blame. Instead, he thought the problem might lie with the requirement that frosh must remain quiet during a long speech about the history of "the sacred muff" as part of the ceremony.

"In the last couple of years, some of the leaders have been overzealous in trying to keep the frosh quiet, and some of them might not have had fun," he said.

Newman said men she talked with were at first defensive, but later admitted the ceremony's sexist elements made them uncomfortable.

Grant said the female council members who opposed the ceremony were mistaken. "None of the girls really know what goes on," he said. "The speech is exceptionally funny, and I don't think it's degrading. Everyone who goes through knows it's a joke," he added. "They want to take anything sexist out of it, and that's what it (the joke) is all about."

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