



## OUR BOY MIRO DISCOVERS FOUL PLAY: SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Miroslav Wicsner

The Company of Sirens is a Torontonion group of actors funded in part by the Canada Council Touring Office and, in the case of UNB, by the Student Union (This production being the first of its kind on campus). The players included three female actors one male actor and an organist all of which perform many different plays and pieces under this company. The piece presented to UNB students was *Foul Play* a performance about the problems of sexual harassment in a university setting.

When I went to see this production, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. All advertisements suggested 'Funny skits and plays about sexual harassment' and I didn't know how one could possibly joke about this important subject without causing it to lose importance in the process. I must say that the Company of Sirens troupe did manage to discuss this touchy subject thoroughly while keeping a friendly humorous atmosphere.

The performance touched on university residential

relationships, professor-student relationships, student-student relationships and traditional situations such as boss-secretary. Each skit was well written and discussed every possible aspect of sexual harassment that a student could encounter in daily life.

The entire performance was well written and the tone in which it was conveyed reflected actual student actions and speech and wasn't a fake sounding dialogue (You know when the parents try to fit in with 'cool', 'I can dig it' etc.)

Overall, it was an entertaining, informative, and fun play that could almost be described as an instructional workshop for those (including me) who do not know much about sexual harassment. Although the acting quality could have been slightly better, it was a very enjoyable performance and thanks should be given to the Student Union and those involved with the organization of this event.

Lastly, all should be reminded of the sexual harassment survey that is circulating the campus. Please don't throw it out, take a look at it and maybe even (what a novel idea) fill it out.

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## SAMEERA HANIF MEETS TRAVELLING MICHAEL THORPE

Last Friday, October 20th, the Gallery Connexion played host to a poet. The poet featured was Mount Allison professor Michael Thorpe. The reading was sponsored by Wild East and Gallery Connexion in co-operation with the Canada Council.

Though native of England, Thorpe has travelled through, lived in, and written about much of the world. Places explored in his work include England, Turkey, Nigeria, Singapore, Holland, India and North America. He now lives and writes in Sackville, New Brunswick where he is head of the English Department at Mount Allison University; and where he teaches Commonwealth and Modern Literature.

At the reading, Thorpe, read from his latest published work - *The Observing Eye*. This is a collection of poetry which explores "Third World" themes. During the reading, he laughingly pointed out the irony of a Canadian publisher (Third Eye Press) putting out a collection of poetry with no Canadian content in it.

Thorpe displayed great oratorical skill as he entertained with his poetry and intriguing anecdotes. His poems evoke a universal context with themes that range from the idea of unjust death; as in *Epilaph*, to lighter concepts of simply recording his travel experiences; as in "An Indian Notebook".

His use of language is economical reflecting deep thought and is intellectual prowess. Two lines in *Confucius' Day* demonstrates his "The Scholars, said Confucius, surrenders all./ life itself, to present the mind whole.

I asked the poet why that after living in all those exotic countries like Turkey, Nigeria, and India he ended up in Sackville, New Brunswick.

He laughed and said he had no real choice on the matter. He wanted to live somewhere in North America, so he applied to several universities and Mount Allison happened to be the one that offered him a post.

He feels that travelling is important for a writer, and this is true especially for him since his experiences supply the inspiration for, and content of his poetry. He commented that the experiences are always subconsciously working and reworking themselves into his poetry and that their influence will never be wasted.

Thorpe is quick to point out

he does plan to travel in the future because it is so important to him. He said that he's not influenced by the Maritimes as much as he is by other places and experiences.

He is reluctant to make grand predictions about the direction of his work. According to him, he is not sure where it is going but laughingly expresses hope that travelling will be a part of it.



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