Seminar during "Body Awareness Week"

Rape in Toronto: "it's not a pretty picture"

By Sandra Bullock

"Women have the right to say NO right from the start," was the theme of an enlightening discussion led by Ms. Rosemarie Volpe of the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre, Wednesday March 1, as part of Harbinger's Body Awareness Week.

Rape is an act of violence, a vicious crime that affects the victim, socially, psychologically, physically and sexually. The feelings of guilt, humiliation and fear many times lead to self-blame that is misplaced and often destructive.

Of the 1500-2000 rapes committed in Toronto yearly only 10-40% are reported to the police. Most convicted rapists receive probation or 3 year sentences reflecting society's resistance to viewing rape as an assault instead of a morality problem.

The victims range from children to the elderly, the majority being 15-21 years old, not because they wear revealing clothes, more make-up or have swinging hips but because they are more likely to be in places where rape is likely to happen.

When asked how to prevent rape, Ms. Volpe strongly suggested that the woman start to struggle at the onset of the attack. Although not a guarantee against rape, it is an unexpected move and doesn't give him time to think. Some men just don't see women as being rapable.

The Toronto Rape Crisis Centre is an organization of complete confidentiality. Their personnel and counsellors support the victims and do what they can to make the going easier, but this is not enough. Rape can happen anytime and anywhere. The Centre suggests that those who are close to the victim may best help them by treating the rape as a crisis that may take a long time to recover from. The victim in many cases is feeling a reaction to a loss and needs support, understanding and the chance to get back the control that she feels she has suddenly lost.

The film that accompanied the discussion, *Not A Pretty Picture*, served to bring reality to a subject that a lot is said about but very little action taken.

For more information on RAPE contact the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre, P.O. Box 6597, Station A Toronto, 368-8383.

statement

Decision on Pinder travesty, pity

To prevent a student from standing for election to the presidency of the CYSF on a paper techicality, fortified by an amended act made retroactive to November 1, 1977 and passed just one day before a deadline for filing as a candidate is *de facto* not only a denial of equity, but, it would appear, a narrow "letter - of - the - law" interpretation which strongly suggests expediency, if not discrimination.

Harvey Pinder, as of late Tuesday according to a statement made to me by the Chief Returning Officer Garfield Payne, had not qualified to appear on the CYSF ballot as a candidate for president. The reason? He was not officially a member of a college belonging to CYSF, as of the retroactive date November 1 decided on March 1, two days before the deadline, 5 pm, March 3.

The CRO chose to base his decision on a computer print-out rather than on other evidence forthcoming from a college Master, the chairman of the petitions of the Council of Masters (myself) and the registrar of the University. The evidence judged to be of less weight than the single computerized fact-which therefore is cited as a basis for denying Pinder the right to stand for election - includes 1) The policy which prevails among the colleges: that college affiliation for all arts students not in residence is determined by the college whose tutorial they are taking; 2) the registrar's letter which indicated that because of a clerical oversight, Pinder's affiliation with Calumet had not been recorded, but that it should be corrected to indicate membership as of July 25, 1977; 3) Harvey Pinder himself acted as if he was a member of Calumet; he had nothing to do with Bethune this year, but he recently attended two general meetings at Calumet and the master, Eric Winter, considers him a member of his college. All of this evidence has been discounted, apparently, by the CRO on the basis of assuming that Pinder whould have seen some Office of Student Programme statements (three are reported to have been sent) that he was listed as a Bethune member and therefore should have done something about correcting the records.

In this context, the following reality might be noted: if one has assumed all along that membership in a college is automatically determined by the college tutorial choice, and if one has had experience with the slowness of the computer to record changes, and if in the past there has been a confusion or a discrepancy about college membership at the time of filing for candidacy, and a statement from the college master based on college records would clarify the issue, it is not surprising that Pinder had not changed and indeed was unable to meet the deadline to have the official computer statement corrected by 5 pm Friday March 3.
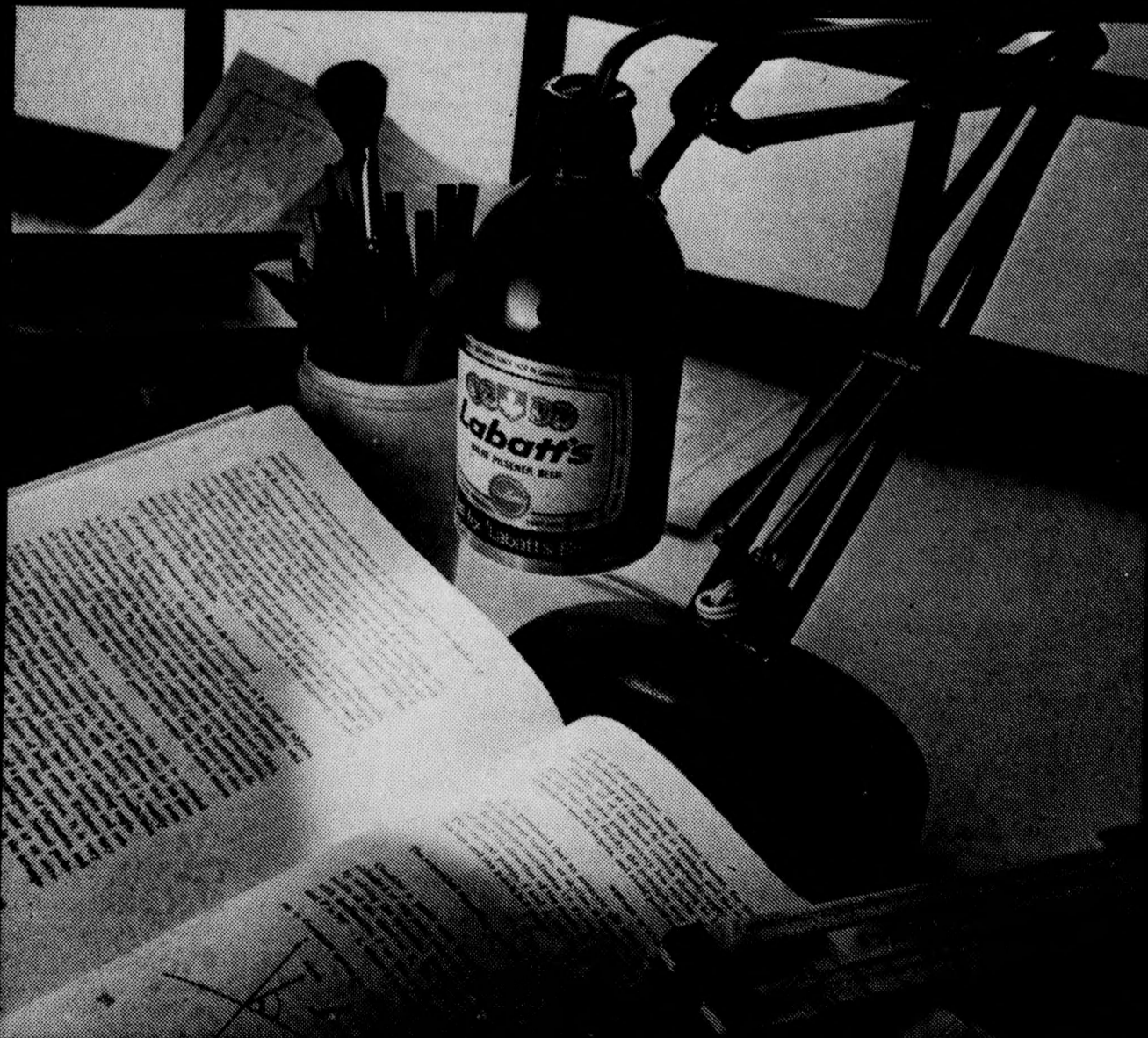
As a member of faculty at York University since 1965, I can testify to the fact that my computerized class enrolment records have not always been accurate, sometimes not until the very end of the year when grades are to be recorded. Students may withdraw before Christmas and that fact has not been recorded on my list until some weeks later; teachers of tutorials have had students in their class whose names do not appear until long after they have officially enrolled. Has the CRO taken this reality into account when he insists that Harvey Pinder failed to qualify because he had not had his college membership changed on the record by March 3 (even though Harvey didn't know officially that this evidence only would be acceptable as proof)? Through all these discussions and explanations, I wonder if the C.R.O. truly believes that Harvey Pinder was, in fact, a member of Bethune College and that only a few days before the deadline for filing his candidacy that he tried to change his affiliation in order to qualify?

Where is the faith in the *democratic* process? How can *any* governing body in a university by a retroactive regulation remove the *right* of a person to run for office, leaving him no recourse even though he has in fact, and in action, shown himself to be qualified? Is this adherence to a narrow "letter - of - the - regulation? what a CYSF election has come to? If so, what a travesty, what a pity.

Virginia Rock
Master, Stong College
Chairperson, Council of College
Masters Petition Committee

BOG meets next Mon.

By Harven Pinder

The Board of Governors of your university is meeting next Monday, 4:30, at Glendon College.

There will be, of course, continued discussion of cutbacks. The closure of the university on March 16 should be on the agenda. There will be a report on the decline in requests for enrolment by high school students for next September.

A repeat of last year's enrolment decline would make the cutbacks even more severe because the administration is planning on a 10% **increase** in first year enrolment. In addition U of T is planning on reducing enrolment standards, which would draw more students away from York.

I hope as many of you as possible attend, last time the forty people who came had a tremendous impact on the Governors.

There will be secret meetings of the Executive Committee and Financial Committee before the BOG meeting.

Correction

In the lead story, Thursday, February 23, about the 800-strong no-cutbacks rally, CYSF President Paul Hayden was incompletely quoted. The article stated that one of his solutions to the lack of funds was to have lotteries as a potential course of revenue.

What in fact Hayden said was that 'Existing lotteries such as Wintario and the Provincial should make sponsorship open to the basic right of every citizen of Ontario...Education".

Crossword solution