Sexist judge voted out of office

MADISON, Wisconsin (CUP) -- The swift and uncompromising action of feminists and their supporters here was successful last week when Judge Archie Simonson was voted out of office.

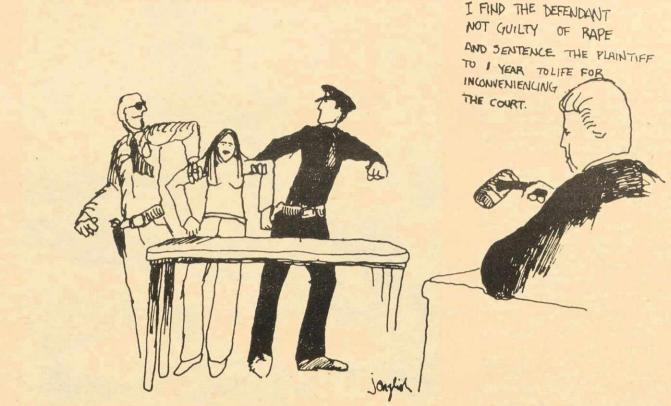
Simonson, the first Wisconsin official to be recalled, was ousted because of his sexist statement that rape is a "natural response" to the "provocative" clothing women

He was defeated by Moria Krueger, a specialist in family and juvenile law who was the only woman among five challengers for Simonson's seat on the Dane County Court.

Krueger, who was backed by Madison mayor Paul Soglin, the local chapter of the National Organization for Women and the Dane County Women's Political Caucus, captured 35 per cent of the votes and beat Simonson, the runner-up, by about 9,000 votes.

Simonson was forced into the recall election by a 36,000-signature petition circulated after publicity about statements he had made while sentencing a 15-year-old youth for sexually assaulting a 16-year-old female student in a local high school.

Simonson had said that Madison, largely a university community, "is well known to be sexually permissive . . . go down State Street and the university area. I used to see girls clothed like that and I had to pay a lot of money to go to the south side of Chicago to see what I



view down on State Street today.

"Even in open court we have people appearing -- women appearing without bras and the nipples fully exposed and they think it is smart and they sit here on the witness stand with their dresses up over the cheeks of their butts and we have this type of thing in the

Before sentencing the youth to

one year of court supervision within the custody of his parents, the judge continued to talk about sex establishments in Madison and asked: "Are we supposed to take an impressionable person 15 or 16 years of age who can respond to something like that and punish that person severely because they react to it normally?"

Madison activists had initially

demanded that Simonson retract his comments, but when he refused, they began circulating the petition for a recall election.

Simonson has refused to concede that he made a mistake, and has added that if the situation arose again he would say essentially the same things. "I might have said them a bit differently, but the context would be the same.'

Rape Relief needs volunteers

In 1975 a voluntary organization was set up to provide both personal counselling for rape victims, their families and friends, and to provide public education on the subject of rape. Its name? Rape Relief.

Until 1975, there was no service of this type in the Halifax-Dartmouth area. It was felt that victims needed sympathetic listeners so Rape Relief gives support, counselling, and information to those affected directly or indirectly by rape and sexual assault. This is done through a 24-hour Crisis Line. Rape Relief's other function, that being their public education program, is to encourage the topic of rape to be more openly discussed. This is done through speaking engagements; talking to groups of students, professionals, and nonprofessionals, when requested.

Right now, Rape Relief has approximately 10 people forming a volunteer staff and there is a desperate need for more. To become a volunteer, interested persons are sent a questionnaire, asking why they want to become involved. Following this, there is a screening process, beginning with an interview and ending with six training sessions. These sessions

deal with the legal, medical, and psychological aspects of rape. There are also workshops, one now being done with senior R.C.M.P. personnel, and projects such as the one being done through Dal's Psychological Center.

Once you are a volunteer, you are requested to be on a six-month

commitment, which involves working at least once a week on the Help Line, and working part-time with a committee on education, legal reform, library, and funding

Due to the lack of permanent funding, Rape Relief has no official personnel, so the need for interested and dedicated volunteers is great. If you happen to be one of those persons, Rape Relief plans a talk at Sherriff Hall during the next week, or you can call the Help Line

Atlantic Gay community uniting against oppression

Gay Alliance for Equality and A.P.P.L.E., Halifax's gay organizations, will be sponsoring the first Atlantic Gay Conference October 8,

The conference will include workshops, seminars and discussion groups aiming towards a.. Atlantic Gay awareness socially, and politically.

Please don't

Walk on'em Rock on'em

Stuffed,

The weekend will also include

Or move'em about.

Purple or grey

PLEASE!

or orange or blue,

RESPECT THE

CHAIRS!

Straight backed

social functions such as discos and a film on Sunday called "A Very Natural Thing." There is also a possibility of a second film -- "The Naked Civil Servant.

The conference will be held at the Turret, 1588 Barrington Street, third floor, Halifax. Registration is \$3.00. For further information phone Gayline 429-6969, or write G.A.E. Box 3611, Halifax South Postal Station, Halifax, N.S

