

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity — Lord Acton

Tarnopolsky - a quick about-face

After last week's erroneous editorial, this may be the quickest about-face in the history of journalism.

On Monday, this reporter travelled to Windsor with law dean Walter Tarnopolsky. For an entire afternoon, I interviewed students and faculty. It was no secret that I was coming and all appeared more than willing to talk.

There can be no doubt that the trust between Tarnopolsky and individual faculty members was good. Despite any animosities within the department, most appeared rather incredulous as to how anybody could misconstrue their dean as being anti-semitic. Quite true. After talking to him, I couldn't either.

Within the department, there was a personality split. It probably said a great deal for Tarnopolsky's ability to keep large egos within the same department happy.

Tarnopolsky himself gives the im-

pression of an honest man with few pretensions. Unlike most academics, his ego certainly doesn't seem to impede his relations with anyone. After a few sentences, trust is a byword. Games are forbidden.

The evidence on which Excalibur based its charges was genuine. On paper, they might have added up to a few allegations. With a few footnotes added, they became nothing.

The charges of anti-semitism in the correspondence between Hugh Silverman, Q.C. and ex-professor Sy Langer had to be dealt with. A lengthy talk with Silverman himself — after all those interviews with faculty and students — led this reporter to believe they were nothing more than wild generalizations whose evidence was student hearsay, and whose victims had well-known personality clashes with him.

The blame for the Americanization of

Windsor should not lie 100 percent with Tarnopolsky. He hired one American — and that was two months after he took over. The other three Americans were hired by former dean Pat MacQuigan. Three American professors were given tenure during Tarnopolsky's term of office by a faculty elected committee. The three still live in the U.S. One could

question whether the dean of a Canadian law school should not uphold Canadian tenure to Canadians or at least those with immigrant status.

It remains to be seen what one vice-president can do to Canadianize York. But the facts are clear: Tarnopolsky's appointment could be a good thing for York.

This week . . .

- when naive human beings were duped;
- when grown men cried in agony and despair;
- when the sickness of social dialogue burst its seams;
- when honest men flung words and threats at honest men;
- when amateurs walked a step closer to becoming professionals;
- when pompous businessmen ordered themselves front page coverage and almost got it;
- when two sick men walked away free and yet not free;
- when so many lives were never the same;
- when the placid tarn survived it all.

Honorary degree to Bird a token effort

Two years ago, the McMichaels of Kleinberg and Canadian art collection fame attended the Glendon College convocation. Their efforts were a shared two decade affair, for which he received an honorary degree. She sat in the audience and applauded.

This Saturday, in step with the progress of women's rights, York will award an honorary Doctor of Laws degree to Florence Bird, chairwoman of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. She will also make the convocation address.

You could begin to question the whole honorary degree system. But those questions are overshadowed by this token effort on the part of York, an institute ruled by a board of governors with one female and 20 male directors, and by a senate, with eight female and

146 male members. Then you remember what the Royal Commission is all about.

York, a microcosm of the societal structure, fits right into the Canadian scene where four women senators in a house of 102 occupy posts at the federal level, along with one female member in a Commons of 264. In the face of such statistics, the Royal Commission says, "The formulation of policies affecting the lives of all Canadians is still the prerogative of men. The voice of government is still a man's voice."

It's a male voice at York formulating all the policies that affect the members of this community. It doesn't stop with the board of governors and the senate, but keeps on going and involves staff and union members too.

Most of the female staff are secretaries to the administration, the board and senate. "Women understand that men must often be kept from soiling themselves with the dirty details of life in order to accomplish the big shiny jobs unimpeded. And women in politics have generally accepted this role — to do all the hum-drum, tedious, must-be-done jobs," said Judy LaMarsh, past secretary of state.

The women in the Canadian Union of Public Employees await the decision on

current negotiations between the union and the administration, negotiations in which they have no role. Whatever decision is brought back, the wage-hike will still leave a wage discrepancy between the rates of male and female workers. Not that the discrepancy is blatant, the Fair Employment Practices and Equal Wages Acts prohibit that. Instead, jobs remain categorized, and workers are paid according to their category.

By dictates of tradition, certain job categories are filled by men, and certain by women. The lower-paid categories are invariably occupied by women. That fits the societal pattern of a woman's role. She is the supportive element, expected to work at maintaining her home responsibilities first and foremost.

Grace Hartman, national secretary-treasurer of CUPE, (an unusually high office for a woman union member in an organisation where women are under-represented in leading positions), and S.A. Little, national CUPE president, recently presented commission based recommendations to CUPE. They demanded an end to discrimination both in wages and job designations by sex. Equal pension and group insurance schemes, maternity leave with pay and

adequate day care provisions are other areas sorely in need of investigation.

In fighting for their rights, women must push and push hard to gain their place at the decision making level. Women won the franchise 50 years ago, but otherwise, there has been no appreciable change in their political activities.

"The absurdity of this situation was illustrated when debate in the House of Commons on a change in abortion law was conducted by 263 men and one woman," says the Royal Report.

And what do you say to Florence Bird, who, standing in the midst of all the laurels York can give, has only to go to the report she helped compile to read this excerpt from York's Institute for Behavioral Research on Attitudes Toward Government Information:

"It is obvious that democracy is based on the premise of a well-informed body of citizens, who have the knowledge and other resources to participate in their own government effectively. . . We begin with two hypotheses: A Canadian's knowledge and attitudes are related to the positions he occupies in his society — as a father, a taxpayer, a businessman, an older person, a French-speaking Canadian. . ."

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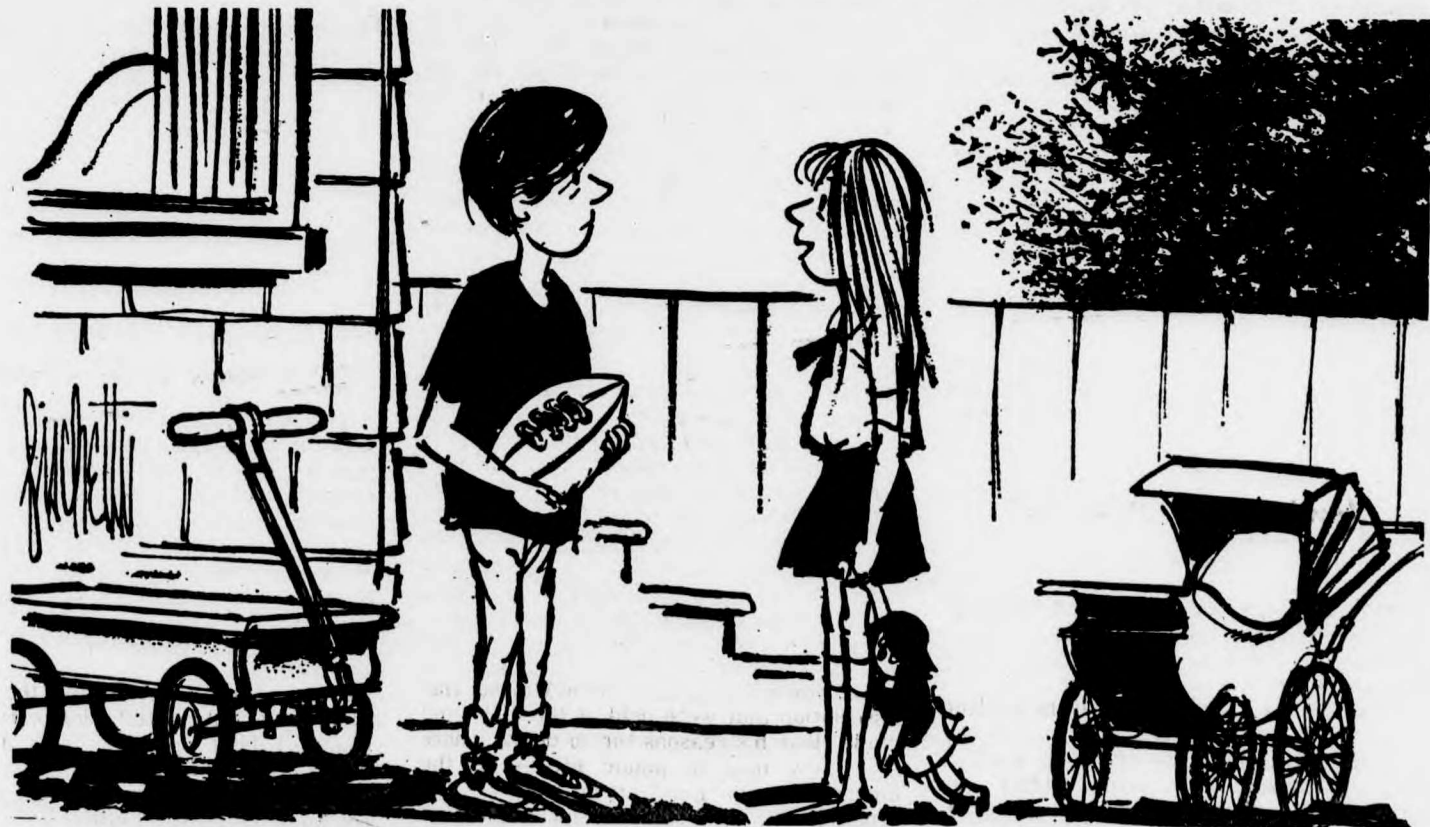
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"Let's play house — I'll be the wife and you be the male chauvinist pig. . ."