

NEWS DIGEST

Italian women's books arrive

By NANCY PHILLIPS

Last Wednesday a reception was held at the Nellie Langford Rowell Library to celebrate the arrival of almost 40 books from Italy on Italian women.

York professor Judy Hellman collected \$400.00 worth of books on her research trip to Italy last summer. She shopped for them in Bologna, Rome, Milan and Florence.

Hellman was inspired to look for the books at a conference last year at York on Italian Women in Italy and Canada. She said that the conference "stimulated a lot of student interest around what women were doing in Italy," and what their condition was. Hellman noticed "a vast ignorance and desire to learn more."

Hellman bought books that have been written in the past two decades. They cover virtually every aspect of Italian Women's studies going back to the past century. The topics include women's literature, the family, church, work, and women's history.

Hellman pointed out that "The women's movement in Italy is very advanced and more radical in many respects than in the United States and Canada. It has made tremendous gains in putting women in politics and executive positions."

An example of this is the 1981 referendum in which 70% of Italians voted to uphold free abortion on demand for all women over 18, covered under the public health scheme. Abortion is legal in Italy, said Hellman, despite the Roman Catholic opposition to it.

Hellman wants students to be aware that these books are now available. She hopes that "they will encourage Italian language study."

The money for the books was

made available by Frank Sturino, the administrator of the Mariano A. Elia Chair in Italian Studies.

In addition to the books she brought from Italy, Hellman has just written *Journeys Among Women: Feminism in five Italian Cities*.

The new collection is held in the Nellie Langford Rowell Library, 202C Founders, extension 3219.

Board game promotes York

By JERRY JORRITSMA

A new board game that promotes the

name of York University has been introduced to develop young students' entrepreneurial skills.

The game, created by Chieftan, the manufacturers of Trivial Pursuit, has received input from York. The board game, named "ENTREPRENEUR! Steps To Starting Your Own Business" was a result of York University's desire to get involved with the Separate School system. "It all started because we wanted to get involved in a joint project with the York Region Separate School Board, which is the fastest growing board in Canada and the second fastest growing board in North America," explained Dyanne Gibson, associate director Admissions/Liaison York.

The game is accompanied by a day long seminar that the students attend. During the day the students are broken up into four groups with

each group working with one quadrant of the board. The board comes in four pieces and these pieces represent marketing, operations, ideas, and financing. At the end of the day after all the students have attended the four groups, they put the four pieces together and get a complete picture of how to run their own business.

The day was videotaped and a copy of that videotape will be included with the board game as a kit. Employment Canada put up \$8,000 to fund the day's activities and video programme. The board game will be sold to all school boards and other interested institutions across Canada at cost. There are no private sales intended.

Gibson was responsible for putting on the day and also for organizing a volunteer committee. The volunteer committee consisted of

representatives from the York board, The Faculty of Administrative Studies at York, Employment Canada, and Seneca College.

In addition to Employment Canada, the game received assistance from Seneca College and the York Regions Separate School Board.

EXCALIBUR STAFF MEETING

Thursday, February 11

4:00 PM sharp

in the News Room

Attendance is

MANDATORY

Opinion divided over anti-porn bill

By MARK KEMP

A symposium to discuss Bill C-54 held last Wednesday morning in Osgoode's Moot Court was a great success. Individual presentations were made and a debate was held, with a panel of five speakers, plus moderator Dan Lyon and chair Joseph Green.

The bill, first read by Justice Minister Ray Hnatyshyn last May in Parliament, has sparked much controversy, especially within the cultural community. The artists feel that the broadness of its definitions of pornography and erotica, as well as the placing of the onus of proof on the accused, could seriously impair the right to freedom of expression in Canada. But the existing legislation, passed in 1959, is said to be inefficient in addressing the problems of child pornography and degrading and violent sexual treatment of women. Recent developments such as inexpensive and easily accessible video equipment complicate the problem further.

The panel was well-balanced in terms of opinion. The first speaker was Detective-Sergeant Jim Hut-

chinson of the OPP/MPD joint Project P, the only anti-pornography police task force in Canada, formed in 1975. Hutchinson commended the bill for its providing of a "clear definition" of pornography, something not provided by the existing criminal code, and felt that it would facilitate the enforcement of laws—especially those dealing with possession of pornographic materials—and standardize the various concepts of obscenity which at present make penalties differ from province to province.

The second and third speakers presented the opposing views of feminists. Poet Rafael Barreto-Rivera was in favour of the implementation of the bill, listing four concerns: that the cultural community might be over-reacting to a bill no more ambiguous than the present law; that although the bill will be difficult to enforce, the emphasis will likely be on the dealer and not the user of pornography; that any personal inconvenience caused by this legislation would be outweighed by the chance to undo some of the damage historically done to women and

children; and lastly, that the controversy over the bill does not dilute its content to the extent that it will be ineffective in combatting the problem of pornography. He reminded the audience that the "voiceless" (exploited children and oppressed women) cannot debate the issue.

Varda Burstyn, author and director of the group Feminists Against Censorship disagreed, suggested that Bill C-54, should it become law, would be detrimental to, rather than allied with, the feminist movement, because it would restrict education rather than reduce pornography. She said that the attitudes of society need to be changed, and the potential restriction of feminist art and writing would be counterproductive. Such a law, she said, would not touch the big corporate purveyors of pornography (eg. *Penthouse*, *Playboy*) but only the small artists, bookstores, galleries and distributors of legitimate material.

Pat Marshall of the Metro Action Committee on Public Violence Against Women and Children (MET-RAC), which works in cooperation

with the Metro Police in cases of sexual abuse and assault of women or children, said that "the discussion of the bill is getting decontextualized;" many people are tending to ignore the original demand for new legislation in the hysteria over freedom of expression. Though Marshall does not wish the passage of an unamended Bill C-54, she feels getting stuck with the outdated existing law would be worse.

The final speaker was Alan Borovoy, General Counsel of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, who questioned Marshall's assertion of faith in the authorities to properly enforce the legislation, the police's training being "not in the appreciation of art." Saying that "the bill is flawed as much as it is possible to have a bill flawed," Borovoy cited examples of literature and educational material that might be affected, from Nabokov's modern classic *Lolita* to Plato's *Symposium* to child-raising books by Dr. Spock or Planned Parenthood. He also challenged the Federal Government's glib attitude of "Trust us; we know what we're doing."

WINTERS COLLEGE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 1988

DATE	EVENT	TIME & LOCATION
MONDAY, 1st	WINTER/SUMMER SESSION BEGINS	
TUESDAY, 2nd	POETRY READING: Students	Winters SCR, 5:00 p.m.
FRIDAY, 5th	ALUMNI MEETING	Winters SCR, 7:00 p.m.
MONDAY, 8th	FELLOWS' LUNCHEON	Winters SCR, 12 noon
TUESDAY, 9th	POETRY READING: Students	Winters SCR, 5:00 p.m.
MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 15th-19th	READING WEEK NO CLASSES	
MONDAY, 22nd	FELLOWS' LUNCHEON	Winter SCR, 12 noon
TUESDAY, 23rd	POETRY READING: Rienzi Cruz	Winters SCR, 5:00 p.m.
THURSDAY, 25th	PAUL DURCAN	Winters SCR, 5:00 p.m.
TUESDAY, MARCH 1st	POETRY READING: Students	Winters SCR, 5:00 p.m.
MONDAY, 7th	ANDREW PARKIN	Winters SCR



CANADA LIFE

FREE SEMINAR ON

RRSP-THE FACTS

by Paul Kolomayz

February 10, 1988

5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

038-039 Administrative Studies Building

Presented by AIESEC with a slide show

20% Discount Sale

A 20% discount* will be offered on each purchase of new, trade (general), hardcover books totalling \$30.00 or more, at the

York Campus Bookstore,
Central Square

from Monday, February 8
to Friday, February 12 inclusive

*N.B. This offer is restricted to new, hardcover books with price-tag, subject ID in the 400 to 499 range; it does not apply to paperbacks, course-books and hardcover tradebooks whose prices have been previously marked down.