

YORK UNIVERSITY
DEPT OF THEATRE

PRESENTS

GEORGE RYGA'S

THE
ECSTASY
OF

RITA JOE

EVE FEB 7, 11, 12, 13 : 8.00 pm

MAT FEB 9, 14 : 4.00 pm

SAT MAT FEB 8 : 2.00 pm

AT MACLAUGHLIN HALL

FREE TICKETS
AVAILABLE AT BURTON AUD.
BETWEEN THE HOURS
11 AM - 2 PM. MON-FRI

Professor Allan Gowans

Chairman, Department of Art/History,
University of Victoria, British Columbia

will speak on the Topic:

**Popular Commercial Arts,
To-day's avant garde: Traditional Social
Functions in Modern Forms**
(Comics, Cartoons and Advertising).

on

Thursday, February 7, 1980 at 4 p.m.
Room 312, Fine Arts Building

This lecture is co-sponsored by the
Department of Visual Arts and the Division of
Humanities, York University

CHILDREN WANTED

The Seneca College Lab School being run in
connection with the Seneca College Early
Childhood Education program at the Keele
Campus of York University is presently accept-
ing applications for children.

Care is provided for 2 to 5 year olds between
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily.

The Lab School is located in the Stilecroft
Public School on the York University bus
route.

For more information call Sue Mulligan at
636-9174.

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Rosie fights for rights

Elliott Lefko

"To understand women's rights one must examine Family Law, its beginnings, development and future," according to Her Honour Family Court Judge Rosie Silberman Abella.

The 33 year-old former lawyer appeared at Glendon College last Thursday, delivering a lecture entitled "Women in the 80's—A Legal Prognosis," in which she examined Family Law through a historical, psychological, and legal perspective. Interspersing her argument with well-placed jokes and illuminating textbook cases, Abella stressed the fact that Family Law did not recognize women as persons until recently. Up until this time, women had been tied down to men and were kept from establishing their separate role in society.

Rosie Abella is the first woman judge in provincial court. She has been a continuous campaigner for constitutional reforms and women's rights, ever since graduating from U of T and being called to the bar in 1972.

Abella suggested that tradition and custom have been two determining factors in the progression of Family laws. For the past years, stereotyping by society has perpetuated the image of wives as dependents and homemakers. Until 1970 a wife was legally obligated to her husband. Upon divorce, custody was stripped away from women. In fact, unless the father was a criminal or mentally ill, he was not deprived of custody. "The rights of a wife were so minimal," complained Abella, "she couldn't even get arrested."

Divorce was harder on the wife. After divorce, women could not support themselves. During the years of marriage, they had usually not acquired any profitable skills, and were forced to start from scratch in the middle age.



David Street

With the new attitudes and social changes of the past ten years, the mother has now become recognized as an economic contributor.

The Family Reform Act (1970) requires that both husbands and wives must be judged equally. In placing a child the judge must now consider the needs of the child, the financial ability of the individual, and the best possibilities for the child's fundamental development.

"In divorce action there are no automatic rules," cautioned Abella. "The fighting is frightening. The courts don't automatically decide anything. Judges try to minimize the problems and provide for the humanity of those things."

The implantation of social policy and women's rights into practice is difficult, for women's rights are limited in a family setting. If working, she has work pressures and mother pressures, plus housework at the end of the day.

Said one weary housewife, "I've been married to a socialist, a Marxist, and a Trotskyite. Not one ever took out the garbage."

Abella's proposed amendments start with a new definition of marriage as "an economic and social partnership based on equality." Women must choose their own roles and not be expected to accept those which are imposed by society.

Ontario has removed some of the serious barriers. Couples are now encouraged to negotiate and draw up the terms of their marriage. Both parents should support and raise the children. Choice, and not gender, should determine roles.

On top of the list of changes are universal child care, the restoration of women's first names, and women hockey players. "There are too many male presidents and too few male secretaries," quipped Judge Abella.

In the final analysis, she feels society has changed. Abella illustrated this with a recent story about her son J.J.: "I asked my kid what he wanted to be, and he said 'a bus driver.' I asked him why he did not want to be a judge. He replied, 'Because only grits are judges!'"



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