

Spicer speaks out on women in media

By SUSAN LUNN

WOMEN WERE CONSIDERED to have "bad voices" and "no credibility on the air" when they first tried to enter television broadcasting, says Roxanna Spicer, co-executive producer of CBC's *Enquiry*.

Spicer spoke this past weekend on women in the media to delegates at this year's second conference of the Atlantic Region of Canadian University Press.

Spicer, who entered television in 1975, has worked her way up to being one of three women executive producers in the CBC.

When women first attempted to enter the medium they met resistance, says Spicer. Then ambi-

tious women entered the scene, and audiences found they could relate to them. The CBC, recognizing their worth, became "skewed in favour of women," she says.

"The pendulum swings in both directions," says Spicer. Although the system would now appear to some as being biased against men, there is still an absence of women in the top executive roles. This is "where the power is, behind the camera," she says.

Spicer says women in the media are still often relegated to covering "tear-jerkers", emotional stories which women are perceived to be good at doing, says Spicer.

The news show *Enquiry*, of which Spicer is co-executive producer, is an all-female unit. As such, the five women who comprise the unit face a lot of pres-

sure. Spicer says she feels, however, that the unit will not only succeed but be an exceptional success.

Spicer acknowledges the "long, hard road to get respect" that she had to travel. Asked to comment on the future of women in the media, she replies that it "remains to be seen what kind of stereotyping will go on."

She estimates only three per cent of all top positions in television are filled by women. "The aggressive progress of women has been most recent and it takes a while for the system to catch up," she says.

Spicer says she has been deemed by some a feminist. While she says she is that, she says she focuses more on dynamics that are neither male nor female. Student feminism, she says, would turn viewers away.



Geills Turner speaks to reporters at the Liberal convention. Photo by Russ Adams, Dal Photo.

Liberal convention a success

By JEAN LeBLANC

LIBERAL PARTY REFORM, begun in 1982 by the youth wing of the Liberal party, continued at the national convention held in Halifax over the weekend.

The youth wing of the party also set the trend at this convention, giving leader John Turner a rousing reception when he arrived to address the youth delegates. Turner went on to receive a 15-minute standing ovation when he spoke to delegates Saturday night. For Turner, it was a welcome reaffirmation of Liberal party confidence in its leaders.

The Halifax convention was the first since the party's defeat in last fall's election. Reforms and changes were discussed at length in sessions and meetings over the weekend, but probably won't produce overnight change.

Turner promised to remain as "custodian" of the party "for a few years yet," in his speech to the Liberal youth.

"You can't start a fire without a spark," Turner told the youth delegates. Liberal youths, says Turner, are the party's spark.

Turner called the Halifax convention "the culmination of a two-year process" or reform, and said the rebuilding of the Liberal party is "on schedule." He said, the caucus in Ottawa is improving, constitutional issues are being opened, and the federal-provincial links within the party

are being restored.

Despite demonstrations of backing for Turner, however, doubts of his leadership persisted.

Appearing Nov. 8 at Dalhousie's law school, Turner was asked what he thought of a recent Quebec newspaper poll which shows Jean Cretien to be a two-to-one favorite over Turner in Quebec.

"He's a nice guy," Turner replied. "How does it affect my leadership? It doesn't."

Major developments at the convention included the National

Women's Liberal Commission winning a commitment to ensure equality in principle between the sexes in the party.

The youth wing, as the rest of the party, remained strongly divided on the issue of free trade.

Youth did win the right to decrease their convention fees and send more youth delegates to national conventions, but were unable to obtain backing for a proposal that would have allowed them to choose their own delegates to national conventions.

1986

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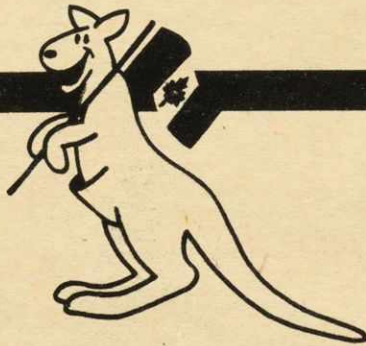


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INFORMATION MEETING

PLACE: HENSON CENTRE AUDITORIUM
1261 Seymour St.
TIME: 7:00 pm
DATE: November 14

International

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sciences division of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

By establishing formal linkages with Third World indigenous organizations who are at the grassroots level, he says, Canadian universities can put systems in place that "optimize the use of their limited resources."

Dr. Ian McAllister, chair of the board of directors of the Pearson Institute, feels that tackling many problems of the Third World, including that of health, requires an "interdisciplinary approach," one which Canadian universities can offer.



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