

Sexual deviation in the old West

Where deer and antelope play

by Portia Priegert

When cowboys rode off into the sunset, they may have been thinking about their horses, not their girls.

According to a U of A graduate student, a lot of the wild tales of the old West are about sexual crimes and perversions.

Terry Chapman of the history department is currently doing research for her doctoral thesis entitled *Moral Offenses in Western Canada from 1890 to 1920*. From court cases, newspapers and novels of the time, she is examining the incidence of seduction, rape, homosexuality, sodomy, bestiality and other deviations from the moral code of the time.

Chapman says sexual crimes were a lot more widespread than most people think.

"There were a lot of rapes then," she says. "But unlike now, the male was assumed to be guilty as soon as his name was revealed. The local newspapers gave a blow-by-blow description of the crime on the front page

under headlines like *Brute attacks helpless female*.

She also says the existence of homosexuality in a predominantly single-male population can be assumed, though historical evidence on the subject is not abundant.

"When the newspapers dealt with crimes they considered particularly offensive (including homosexuality) they tantalized readers by saying the crimes were so heinous and unnatural that they just couldn't publish the details."

Chapman says the public was convinced that sexual deviants were immigrants, alcoholics and had inferior mental abilities. "What they forgot," she says, "was that everyone was an immigrant."

Legislated penalties for sex crimes were heavy, she says. Buggery and rape were punishable by life imprisonment, sodomy by 15 years imprisonment.

But sentences were generally reduced by individual judges, she adds. "A man convicted of assault on a female got a sentence

which included 160 lashes, but 140 of them were later remitted."

Chapman says the law governing moral offenses was designed to act as a deterrent. Floggings were often public and the press would print all the details, including the amount of medical treatment the convict needed.

The law may have been successful because Chapman says she has not discovered many repeaters of sexual crimes. However, she points out that there was often a reluctance to report crimes and the system of recording was not very accurate.

The legal code also exhibited a great degree of control over female behavior. A woman could be taken to court if she had had an abortion or was not chaste at the time of her marriage. It was illegal to sell birth control devices and it was a common practice for a father to sue because of loss of labor if his unmarried daughter became pregnant.

There was also a negative

reaction to prostitution on the part of the public, says Chapman. "Reformers felt private morality should be legislated. There was a tremendous invasion of privacy at this time."

Chapman says despite the unsavory connotations of her research, she enjoys her project. But she says her popular approach to history is an academic embarrassment to her department and many of her colleagues don't know whether to take her seriously or not.

"I get a fair bit of ribbing," she says. "But my philosophy of history is that a person's private life is more important than his public life."



Terry Chapman

SU supports report

The Students' Union (SU) has expressed general support for a report attacking the provincial government's policy towards educational funding.

Vp external Tema Frank says the report, compiled by Dr. Steve Hunka of the U of A's Educational Research Services, contained some interesting information and was thoroughly researched.

Hunka was a member of the government's Grantham Task Force which looked at student contributions to post-secondary education. His subsequent

report evaluated many of the recommendations of that Task Force.

Frank says Hunka "did an excellent job of tearing apart the Grantham report recommendations and methodology."

She says he gave a particularly good case for funding of the basic sciences.

The SU plans to use the report as a resource for future work they'll undertake in the area.

Student on finance board

Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) Students' Association president Kees Cusveller has been appointed to the Student Finance Board.

Cusveller is the only student official on the board, although Greg Michaud, a recent U of A graduate, is serving the remainder of his three-year term.

"I'm quite happy with the appointment," said Cusveller. "I

hope to be some help to the Board, and to adequately represent the students of Alberta."

The board serves as an advisory body to Jim Horsman, the Minister of Advanced Education, and he makes all board appointments.

Cusveller says he expects to be able to achieve some success in putting forth students' views on the board.

"Right now we're not serving the needs of all groups," he said. "It seems we're alienating a large segment of society, and some changes will have to be made."

The appointment has upset the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS), though.

"We weren't consulted about the appointment," said Punam Khosla, acting FAS executive officer.

"Our concern is that FAS has proposed that student representatives on the Student Finance Board be chosen by the students themselves."

"Major decisions are being made without student input," she said.

But Cusveller does not see this as a problem.

"I intend to work with student groups at other institutions in Alberta rather than with a co-ordinating body," he said.

"Every institution has its unique concerns, and I would rather deal with them separately."

Horsman's reaction to the appointment was positive.

"Mr. Cusveller's leadership abilities and his infectious drive and ambition speak for themselves," he said. "He will no doubt be a valuable addition to the board."

Teachers for disabled

by Debbie Jones

A program to prepare teachers of multiple and dependent handicapped people may be introduced at the University of Alberta, pending approval by the Alberta Government for special funding.

During its monthly meeting Friday, the Board of Governors (B of G) approved the program proposal. Costing \$532,748 over an initial five-year period, the program would require two academic teaching positions and two temporary research positions.

"We're going to see if we can attract personnel on a term basis", as opposed to granting tenure, said Ted Allen, chairman of the board's finance committee.

The objectives of the

program, outlined by finance committee, are "to employ specialized instructional personnel to offer courses on the multiple-dependent handicapped to complement an existing special education program. Courses at the undergraduate level would provide the specialized training required of special education teachers to work with the multiple/dependent handicapped. At the graduate level, course and thesis work would assist in training specialized consultative and administrative personnel."

Money for the project would likely come from a \$4.5 million fund recently set up by the government to train handicapped Albertans and their teachers.



Arrgh! The Convincer does it again! The seat belt safety demonstrator was on display at last week's Safety Expo in Quad.

Photo Rick Lawrence

Bart Evanski

A column for the old farts



Boy, I'm a little bit upset today. I'm even a bit worried. You see I've come across a very serious matter indeed. It seems that there is a splinter group of the infamous separatist organization, the Weathermen, set up in our fine city.

Need I say more to impress upon you the seriousness of this matter than to point out that Rene Levesque was once a Weatherman? It is true. Prior to assuming his present office of irresponsibility, Levesque was a weatherman on the evening news for the CBC. He was so sly and devious that in the best Le Carre manner, he was easily able to infiltrate the most important Canadian indoctrination institution, the CBC. Once revealed, however, he was forced to admit his inclinations and enter the political arena to openly spread his corrupting ideas.

Now look at him. When not chain-smoking, he is the premier of Quebec and is busy working his devious deeds trying to separate this country. The question we all have to ask ourselves now, is whether this can happen here in Alberta.

Well as a matter of fact, it can, and it is happening right now! Again in the CBC a potential threat to the very fabric of our nation is beginning to appear - Larry Branter of *Hourglass*.

Larry Branter, you ask, that ... (you know what I mean)? Well here are the facts. First and foremost, he is a weatherman, and all weathermen are not to be trusted, even Bill Matheson. I don't think I need to remind you how often they have collectively conspired against us, the public, to ruin our weekends by promising sunshine when in reality the forecast was for rain. Need I also remind you of all the parties, picnics, and barbecues that are annually ruined by false weather forecasts. These facts alone should be evidence enough to prove his complicity.

Secondly there is the matter of Branter's preoccupation with neckties. They are obviously a symbolic reference to the economic and political ties between Alberta and the rest of Canada. Notice how Branter constantly plays with his ties. Deep inside, he is actually scheming to manipulate Alberta's ties with Canada in this same way. Notice all the wild colors and patterns of Branter's ties. This obviously refers to Branter's apathy of ties of any kind. Is Larry Branter a political weatherman? Are we, the public, being subliminally indoctrinated? Yes, is the resounding answer.

Even in the hallowed halls of our respected University of Alberta, Weathermen infiltration is taking place. I have pictures to prove that on top of the Tory building, a Weathermen monitoring station has been set up. As well, I personally have sat in on an open Weathermen indoctrination rally, Geography 231. Our naive sons and daughters are being daily brainwashed and forced to think and speak in the vernacular of the Weathermen. I personally overheard two students discussing low and high pressure zones. One can only guess what subversive plots are involved in the tactics of low and high pressure.

I realize this may precipitate a storm of denials from the Weathermen, but we the public must be willing to ignore them and to stand up and stop these winds of change. We must steal their thunder before the deluge or else Alberta will become another Quebec.

I usually don't like to use this column as an editorial but today I felt it was necessary, so great is the threat of Larry Branter and Rene Levesque to our country. These Weathermen are not nice men and they must be stopped now!