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"sexual harassment will not be permitted" (Guelph), and "the university cannot and will not... condone behaviour on campus that is unacceptable" (Laurentian). But at many universities, victims of sexual harassment don't know where to go or what can be done. And even after enduring the scrutiny of an eight to ten member committee, the results may be unsatisfying.

Terry considered resigning her professor for sexual harassment but the media hype such a case would generate as well as the burden of legal fees changed her mind.

She talked to the Canadian Human Rights Commission, which guarantees that all persons have the right to be free from sexual harassment, but she was told sexual harassment would be very difficult to prove because the only witnesses are herself and her prof.

She believes her professor is guilty of sexual harassment. Terry believes it wasn't her fault and doesn't want what happened to her to happen to someone else. She wants the University of Winnipeg's sexual harassment policy improved.

Sexual harassment complaints at the University of Winnipeg are dealt with through a committee process which allows for informal and formal complaints through a panel hearing. After the hearing, the panel writes a report, making recommendations and providing "all relevant information to an appropriate administrator who shall determine the course of action to be taken"

Although the panel's recommendations are confidential, Terry's lawyer has advised her that she can legally release any information she chooses. But neither the professor's name nor anything other than the panel's recommendations can be made public for fear of libel or slander suits.

"Conduct was not appropriate (to the) student-teacher relationship that existed. His actions just do not meet the professional standards required under the circumstances," the report said. It went on to say the professor "acted in an amoral and unethical manner."

Terry went through the formal hearing to convince herself that what happened to her was not her fault. She was disappointed. Though the professor made a "gross error in judgement," according to the committee's report, they found no evidence that his actions were not welcomed.

Terry calls the U of W's sexual harassment policy "a joke."

She criticizes committee members for not having any formal training in sexual harassment. She adds she finds it difficult to believe that people sitting on the committee would have an easy time judging their peers.

The current chair of the University of Winnipeg's sexual harassment committee is Tom Carter, a geography professor.

Committee members do not have any formal training in sexual harassment and this lack of expertise is of concern, says Carter.

"Committee members should have more opportunities to gain expertise in this area. Certainly the committee does its best, but at times we don't necessarily feel adequate."

Carter says the policy is relatively new and the university is "struggling with the whole issue a little bit, but that's not unique because all universities are struggling with this issue."

The committee structure and formal hearings to deal with complaints of sexual harassment are popular in Canadian universities. Other universities — such as Guelph, Lakehead and McGill — simply lump complaints of sexual harassment onto the duties of existing administrators, without setting up a formal committee.

McKenzie says asking full-time employees to take on the additional responsibilities of a sexual harassment committee is unfair.

The University of Winnipeg has not ruled out an establishing a half-time sexual harassment officer, according to Carter.

But until the university revises its sexual harassment policy, Carter says the committee doesn't want to embark upon a large educational program. If the sexual harassment educational program is strengthened there will probably be more formal complaints and more formal hearings, he adds. Any revision to the U of W's sexual harassment policy would not take effect until next September.

Terry, who says her professor had power over her academic career, can not appeal her case because there are not provisions to do so. She doesn't feel the committee addressed her fear enough. "Fear is intangible. The panel left out that thing."

The professor who allegedly harassed her continues lecturing. And the odds say he will repeat.

"Generally speaking, the hardcore harassers repeat. That's the way they get their thrills. It's the misuse of power. And they know exactly what they're doing," says McKenzie.

CUP Briefs

No parents

OTTAWA (CUP) — Carleton arts rep Eleanor Bell won't be going to student council meetings unless they pay for her childcare.

Bell, a single mother, asked next year's council to use part of their discretionary funds for childcare Bell must get in order to attend meetings.

After a two hour debate, the council voted 15-11 to reject her request.

"It's unfortunate that parents coming to this school can no longer be represented," said Bell, a first-year student.

Commerce rep Bill Reid told council if Bell was to be reimbursed, he should be reimbursed for renting a car to attend council meetings.

Bell said the comparison was an insult.

"This reduces children to a luxury item," she said. "It's insensitive."

Other councillors said the council wouldn't have enough money because students defeated a fee increase in a February campus vote.

Arts rep Miranda Lawrence said the decision would discourage "people in special circumstances" from running for council.

Dean resigns

TORONTO (CUP) — The Dean of Divinity at the University of Toronto's Trinity College resigned after a report said he was hostile to a female professor's appointment to a tenure stream position.

Peter Slater helped produce a "poisonous political climate," which led to professor Marsha Hewitt's filing a complaint of gender discrimination, according to the report.

U of T's grievance review panel ruled in favour of Hewitt. The ruling said Slater had "expressed such determined hostility to Professor Hewitt's candidacy before the search began that he ought not to have been a member of the search committee."

"Some of the Dean's comments to Professor Hewitt border on gender harassment. It is abundantly clear, however, that the Dean contributed to the poisonous political climate that enveloped the search process," it said.

Trinity provost Robert Painter recently released a statement stating Slater's resignation would best serve the interests of the college.

"I think the dean simply felt that given the judgement of the (grievance) review panel it would be appropriate for him to step aside," said Painter.

Slater would not comment on his resignation or the ruling of the grievance panel.

"I believe there are people trying to work out a statement that would be acceptable all around, and I don't want to queer that."

Grads pro-choice

TORONTO (CUP) — The University of Toronto's graduate student council has drawn flack from anti-abortion students for taking an official stand in favour of choice.

Graduate student Cathy Jones said she brought up the issue because she was shocked the Canadian Federation of Students refused to take a stand.

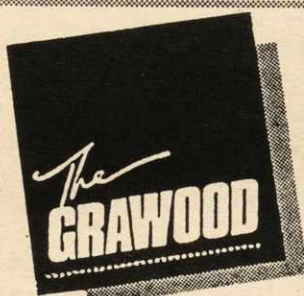
"We wanted to take a stand for choice. The abortion issue greatly affects students, especially female students, and to take no position on the issue is to ignore the fact that (Bill C-43, which will recriminalize abortion) is going through the house," said Jones.

But John DiMarco, a graduate student and member of U of T's anti-abortion group, said it was not the place of student politics to take a stand on this issue.

"I'm extremely dismayed at the decision because the GSU is not voluntary, and by taking a pro-choice stance they are forcing me to pay for a policy which supports the killing of human beings."

Correction

Last issue's story, "Green Party to stay" incorrectly stated that the Memorial University student council unanimously voted not to give the Memorial Green Party a room and a budget. In fact it was the council executive that made the decision.



Yuk Yuk's Returns!

Hold on to your old tomatoes! Yuk Yuk's returns to the Grawood Friday, March 16 for an uproarious performance you won't want to miss! Meanwhile: This week enjoy D.J. James as he spins his discs doubletime Thursday and Friday in the Grawood! All you guitar pickers... Open Mic continues this Saturday between 12 Noon and 4 pm!



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