

# SPECTRUM

## "Things that make you go 'hmmm, hmmmmm!'"

**T**hings that make you go Hmm... you know, sometimes you just go to laugh...because otherwise you would be crying all the time. For example, (bare with me here), UNB has had a woman's studies program, for five years now. This past summer a new co-ordinator was appointed (Dr. Wendy Robbins, by the way).

Now, for the past five years the women's studies programs, which is offered as a minor, has had no office, no phone... not even a paperclip to call its own. But, it does have a great group of dedicated professors...so, it survived.

Anyway... the male higher-ups in the university FINALLY decided (after FIVE years) to give us an office. (By "us", I mean the Women's studies program and its many students) our own office.

Now for the catch...GUESS where the office is ... come on, just take a wild one...where would a male dominated administration put a WOMEN'S Studies office with a WOMAN department head...in the kitchen of course. I AM NOT KIDDING! THEY PUT US IN THE KITCHEN - 3rd floor, anthropology building, room 31 at the back, into the kitchen ... and yup, that's the Women's studies office.

So, lets put this in context to see just how far we've come baby... More that 100 years after the first female student graduated from U.N.B. in the male administrations progressive point of view - we still haven't gotten out of the kitchen. Well, at least we'll have some privacy there.

So, like I said, sometimes you just have to laugh... otherwise you would cry.

By the way, here's a few things

I'm not laughing about. Day one of classes and I got pissed off... 31/2 years into my B.A. and a professor finally tells me that the first novel isn't Moll Flanders, which was written by a male. the novel was



written by a woman... funny, none of my male professors ever mentioned that before. In fact, I took a whole course on the history of the novel and we didn't study ANY female authors.

Then there is my anthropology course on symbolism and ritualism...readings that could have

been specifically designed to piss me off. It just kills me the way these male, educated writers portray women's religions. These "educated" men, see women's religion as estacy cults and portrayed as mad, sexual orgies by men. Women's religion is based on the beauty of childbirth, now...think about it slowly now...maybe, just maybe that's why all their rituals and symbols involve pregnant women's bodies, the vulva and menstration (oops, I mentioned a taboo subject). I'll say, it again, yes, menstration. Now, doesn't that make just a bit more sense about women's religion than neolithic nymthmatics.

Now, something that doesn't make sense to me that, these same men seem to have no problem with is the virgin Mary from male religion...a woman has a baby without having sex and they don't give

it a second thought... yea, right. Anyway, back to my point...I get real tired, real fast of only getting half the story in history or a very biased other half. I feel like Paul Harvey, you know the guy who does the radio show and always says, "And this is the rest of the story." I like that guy because I'm the woman in class that always asking "where the hell is the rest of story." when I'm in non-Womens Studies courses.

Did you psychology students know that, for example, that Erikson's 8 stages of psychosocial development don't apply to women. Any of your professors mention that by any chance? Erikson actually knew the stages didn't work for women, but that minor FACT didn't fit into his neat little steps, so he left it out. And then there's Freud, the child molestor who is an expert on female psychology "After trying to fit women into his masculine conception, seeing them as envying that which they missed (a penis), he came instead to acknowledge...a development difference. He consider this difference in women's development to be responsible for what he saw as women's developmental failure." (IN A DIFFERENCE VOICE by Carol Gilligan).

It makes you wonder what else you haven't been told, eh! and then of course, there's my personal favorite course, which is MANDATORY for ARTS students...The Development of Western Thought Hmm..I think we should be brutally honest and just re-name the course The development of White Male, Women Hating, Patriarchial sorry I mean thought. I think that's what they call a Freudian Slip, There's about, oh, three lectures on women in the whole, full year course. I think it's during the Middle Ages that the organizers of this course have briefly granted women a brain...Thanks, man!

Thought history women have had to fight long and hard for 'An' education. a hundred years ago none of us would be here...now women make up 51% of the student university population across Canada. But the fight isn't over. Women now have to demand to know their part history. We have to fight for 'our' education.

On that note, the U.N.B. student committee is compiling a list of sexist professors of who not to take courses from. So drop by our office in Room 31, Anthropology Building during our office hours and, we'll tell you about the professor who is a convicted wife beater, the one who says things like "you're very beautiful...and smart too" and has several harrassment complaints filed against him, the one who doesn't want "any of that feminist crap" in his classroom, and the one who would like to put his hand on your butt.

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