

Maloney at York

Women challenge ombudsman's rape policies

By ANNA VAITIEKUNAS
 Charlie Farquason's 'Arty Balony, the ominous woodsman' for the Ontario legislature spoke before 170 York university alumni Friday evening about his job, the media, and rape.

Arthur Maloney, the 'little man's defender against big government' said that his job is to turn the average citizens' 'whisper into a roar'.

He said he had thought before he became the Ontario ombudsman that he would receive complaints that would be particular to each locale.

"When I've gone on tour through northern Ontario, I've seen that all the complaints have been fairly commonplace, — hospital insurance, expropriation of land, student loans — they all follow the same pattern of complaint."

EASIER JOBS

Maloney praised the Toronto media for its coverage of the ombudsman's office. "The more coverage the media gives us, the

easier our jobs become".

"If, in Montreal, a man walking down the street is abused by the police, you might find the story in a back page of a Montreal daily. If the same thing happened here, the papers usually give the story more comprehensive coverage. Toronto has always been more sensitive to these problems.

He added that the creation of the office of the ombudsman has had 'an uplifting effect on the civil service.'

"I've noticed that already in the actions of the government."

Maloney's speech switched topics however, when a woman in the audience shouted, "Have you changed your views on women victims of rape?"

"No," said Maloney.

"A defense lawyer should be able to cross-examine a rape victim on her previous sexual relations. I'm sure all the lawyers in the audience would agree with me on this point.

"No," shouted another querulous



Ontario ombudsman, Arthur Maloney speaks to a York alumni audience about his job, the media and rape.

woman lawyer from the back of the room.

Over hisses and table-thumping from the women and fuggaws from the men in the audience, Maloney tried to explain his position.

"As a criminal lawyer for 33 years I think a great miscarriage of justice might have occurred if I hadn't been able to cross-examine with quite a bit of latitude. That's the way you establish whether the woman consented or not."

"Bull-shit!" yelled another woman.

"If I consent to sleep with every man in this room and don't consent to sleep with you," she yelled, "the fact that I slept with the others doesn't lessen my denial to you."

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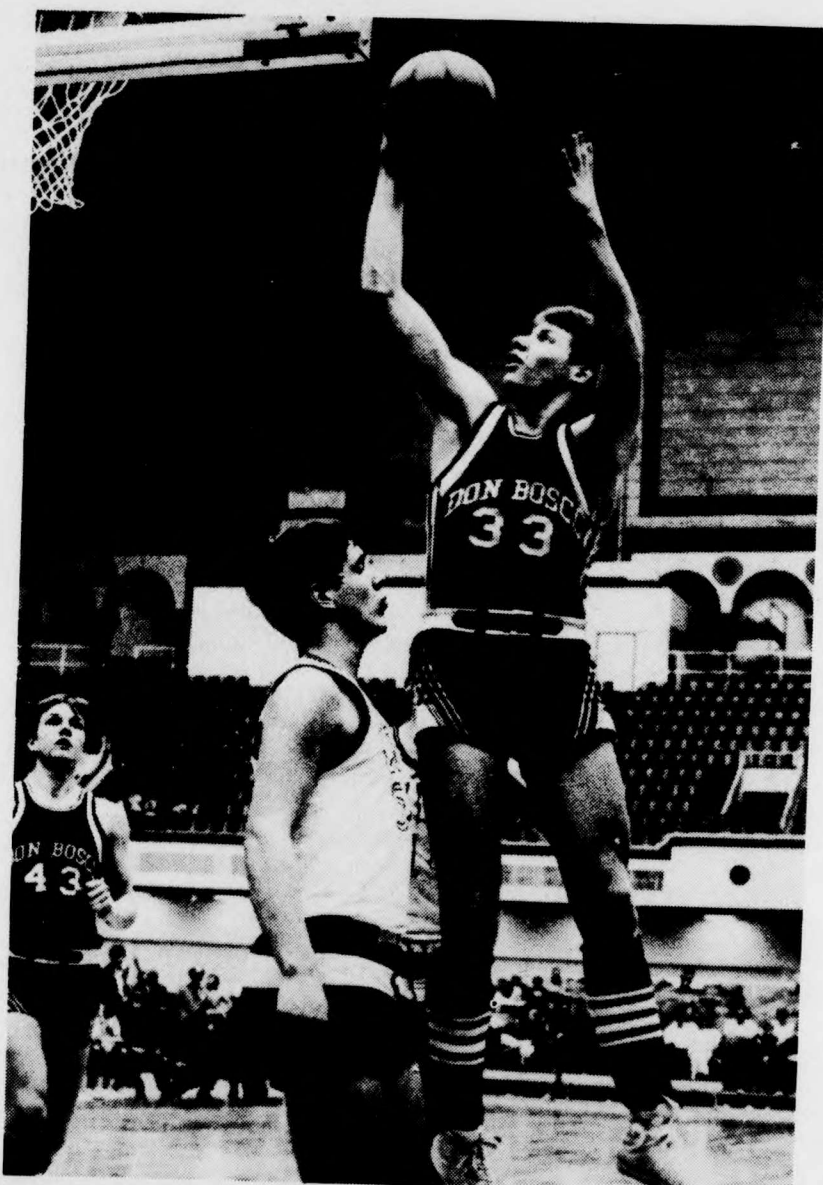
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