

# Tories nibble at Grit's lead

**James Carlisle**

There is an unexpected contest shaping up in York Centre, the riding which includes York campus.

Liberal Bob Kaplan was re-elected in May with a plurality of over ten thousand votes, more than half of all the votes cast. However, in this election, Conservative Ann Silverman, a local lawyer, has mounted a surprisingly hard-hitting, well-organized campaign. NDP candidate Chris Liscio, a United Steelworkers executive, has had organizational problems, leaving him little chance of election.

Silverman's strategy is based on a personal canvass. Although the PCs have workers in each poll, the candidate has attempted to knock on every door in the riding herself. Campaign—signs, public meetings and phone calls as well as door-knocking.

Kaplan's organizers have given equal weight to all aspects of the campaign, signs, public meetings and telephone calls, as well as door-knocking.

The Liberals are confident of victory and Kaplan has campaigned for his party in other parts of the country.

Liscio has not attracted many

workers. One of his staff stated, "People are afraid to take responsibility for an area in case there is a snow storm or something." They are hoping to deliver some NDP literature to every poll in the riding before election day.

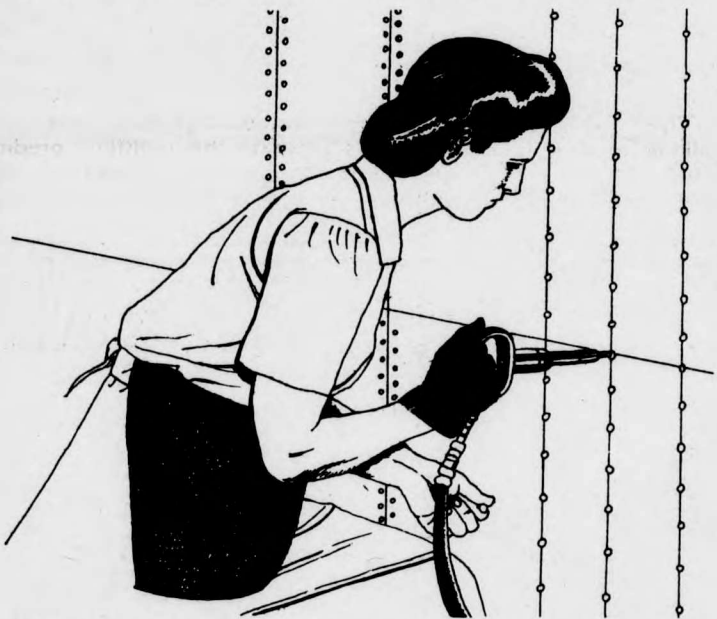
Representatives of each candidate were asked what issue they thought would be the most important for York students in this election.

"Energy" was the NDP reply. Kaplan's staff stated that the most important issue for York students in the Liberals' opinion, is the 18-cent excise tax on gasoline "since many of you drive to school."

Ann Silverman stated that the need for sound fiscal policy in order to ensure a strong future for Canada is the most important issue for students. "The complete irresponsibility of the Liberals in piling up huge deficits," said Silverman, "will be an increasing burden for young people in the future."

In view of his strong mandate in the last election, Kaplan is likely to be returned again, followed by Silverman as a close second. Liscio will be third and Jeffrey Forest running on the Marxist-Leninist ticket will prove that not only nice guys finish last.

# Women's action



**Debbie Bodinger**

When the National Action Committee on the Status of Women asked Liberal M.P. Jean Chretien about reforming certain income tax provisions that are unfavourable to women, he replied, "We can't do that for women because women cheat."

When the Committee asked to meet Finance Minister John Crosbie as he was drawing up the budget, he refused, saying that he only wanted to see "people who are going to be affected by it."

CBC president A. W. Johnson told the group that the reason his network gave minimal coverage to women's issues in the last election was that "all of them (the three major political parties) have the same position and none of them think it is very important."

In an informal question and answer session at the York Women's Centre last Thursday, Lynn McDonald, president of the National Action Committee, related these statements as typifying the attitude that people in power have towards women's issues.

One of the problems discussed was that of legislation that is

written to appear non-sexist but which remains discriminatory. For example, McDonald pointed out the Liberal cutbacks in UIC benefits for part-timers and those re-entering the work force "didn't say 'women,' but in fact affected mostly women." Nor is she happy with the Conservatives' two-tier plan, that would base benefits on the number of the claimant's dependents. Since men usually make more money and therefore claim the dependents on their taxes, they would be entitled to more UIC than their wives, whose incomes are often just as vital to the family support.

McDonald was cautiously optimistic about the future, pointing to some of the progress that has already been made. This election, for example, marks the first time that the major party leaders have agreed to meet with the NAS to discuss their concerns. To McDonald this is a sign that perhaps at last public officials are beginning to recognize the legitimacy of women's concerns. And who knows where this trend may lead? Maybe by the next election women will have convinced Jean Chretien that they have no special penchant for cheating.

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bread	ice cream
candy	lasagna
cannelloni	macaroni
cheesecake	marshmallows
chocolate	muffins
cupcakes	noodles
danish	oatmeal
doughnuts	olives
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