

appropriate places over the course of nearly a year is a clear example of "poor taste and bad manners". Such behaviour is unprofessional, to say the least.

Resistance to a policy on sexual harassment comes in many forms. Smear campaigns, ridicule and overstatement are but a few methods used to oppose what does not bear a more honest opposition.

Hopefully, students are more critical readers than that.

Sincerely,  
Vaughn Jelliffe

Dear Editor,

RE: Harassment by Experts; Sex under surveillance

I was quite amazed & shocked by the article written by Prof. Rahman in the March 10th issue of GEM.

His article was both arrogant and condescending in its attitude towards sexual harassment, feminism, the respondents to the survey, and to the psychologists who conducted the survey.

Prof. Rahman's misrepresentation of the intent and purpose of the Sexual Harassment Survey and his dismissal of its authors as "voyeuristic" does a great

Dear Editor:

"Cheap and dirty!" those were the first words that come to mind when I read Professor Rahman's attack, in last week's (Thursday, March 10th) GEM, on the sexual harassment research project.

On further reflection, I added "crafty."

At first I was appalled to think that a well-known university professor could strike such low blows against his own colleagues—members of his own department. Professor Rahman's attack is personal, despite his beginning and ending the article with vague gestures to faults in the social sciences

disservice to his Dept. and to his colleagues.

I found it insulting that Prof. Rahman should suggest that the solution to what he calls "bad manners" is to distribute Ms. Manners' Etiquette Book. This line of reasoning all too well illustrates the sort of pervasive attitudes that one might find in a survey of sexual harassment.

Finally, that Prof. Rahman so readily displays contempt for social psychology leads me to wonder if he is not in the right profession.

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themselves. He repeatedly uses innuendo, understatement, overstatement, sarcasm, cliché, and faulty analogy to vilify his colleagues. How can his words be taken as anything but calumny when he (twice) refers to his colleagues' research as "voyeurism," talks of their collected data as "gossip" and "quantified gossip", lumps them together with social scientists who "indulge in research antics," and calls their research instrument a "pseudo-scientific survey"?

The more I thought about the article and its language, the more upset I became. Why? Professor Rahman chose his tone and expressions carefully. He writes in a style that shows he believes his readers are unfair and immature; he assumes these readers will be eager to jeer with him at the work of his colleagues.

The article is a masterly (almost) orchestration of sneers and smirks. He frequently trivializes the subject of sexual harassment and at the same time shares a knowing wink with his readers. He thinks he knows his audience—and this assurance

should make us all very uncomfortable.

Look, for example, how neatly he disposes of the credibility of his colleagues, shares a laugh with his reader, and at the same time paints himself as a most sympathetic and sensitive soul. He takes his colleagues' phrase "most memorable" and turns it into a joke. There is a locker-room snicker behind his suggestion that the word "memorable" should refer to "sexual escapade," not harassment. The snicker is quickly, artfully masked behind the intended heart-stirring in the next clause. There we learn that harassment is "not worth of being remembered, but recalled only with a heavy heart." Sigh. The message is unmistakable; the quick changes of tone are skillful. Clearly, he says, these researchers can't even write well; they obviously don't know what they are doing and certainly cannot be trusted to understand all of us sensitive, lively intelligent people out here.

The middle of the article is full of smirking word play. Professor Rahman is evidently counting on his audi-

ence's love of a good time—a spicy controversy. Why else would he pretend that his colleagues didn't know the difference between "amorous glances or advances" (the rhyme there is a nice, dismissive touch) and harassment? Why else would he pretend that his colleagues would care to spy on the comings and goings from the coffee shop? Professor Rahman, with another of his winks, assures his readers that HE knows what they are up to in the coffee shop. Doesn't he say it all in another of his dismissive little formulas—"coffee, tea, or sympathy?"

Professor Rahman's article is vicious, and I fear it may do great harm. Many readers may not take the time to see how unfairly he treats his colleagues; they may not see his innuendo, sarcasm, and flippancy for the affront they surely are to his reader's sense of justice and to the spirit of free debate.

Professor Rahman should have come to the Friday afternoon session where his colleagues ex-

...continued on Page 13

To the Editor,

I applaud your attempt to focus your readers' concerns upon intellectual and moral issues affecting our common life together here at UPEI ("Harassment by Experts", - Thursday March 10), but am disappointed in Prof. Rahman's contribution.

His article is characterized by vague insinuations, unwarranted extrapolations, and a depressingly frequent use of loaded terms (e.g. "Social scientific forms of voyeurism", "research antics", "pseudo scientific survey", "manipulative", "ethically questionable", "scientific practice", "treating people as hollow objects to be manipulated", etc). These loaded terms cloud, and do not clarify, the intellectual and moral issues. They only serve to hurt feelings and raise tempers.

Speaking as an analytical philosopher and logician for (too) many years,

and having composed survey forms myself, I was personally impressed by the faculty version of the survey-questionnaire I completed. Contrary to Prof. Rahman's suggestions of duplicity, sneakiness and pandering to gullibility, I found that the survey prompted me to do some hard thinking about the concept of sexual harassment. It also sensitized me to subtle ways in which behavior which seems so unobjectionable to ourselves may be upsetting or offensive to the other party.

I think that Prof.'s Percival and Mazer are to be commended for devoting their research energies to a project which increases our understanding of ourselves and our sensitivity towards those around us.

Philip J. Koch Dept. of Philosophy U.P.E.I.

THURSDAY NIGHT  
MARCH 24

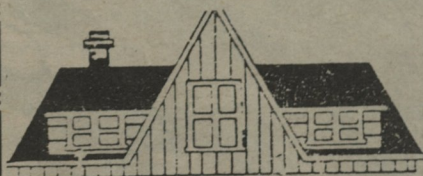
FROM HALIFAX

XSNRG

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UPCOMING TUES. WE PLAY OLD TIME ROCK 'N' ROLL  
THE OLD FASHIONED WAY WITH A SUPER PIZZA &  
BEVERAGE SPECIAL

YOU HAVE TO BE THERE TO BELIEVE HOW CHEAP  
THIS NIGHT CAN BE!

WED- LOONY LADIES NIGHT  
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