

Carr speaks to women on discrimination

By John Pendergast

saulted". However, only 2% of rapists in Canada are ever convicted.

Carr then spoke of the causes in society that are the root of violence against women.

First, she blamed the reactionary elements that physically or verbally assault women for "burying their bras" or trying to control their own bodies.

Carr blamed sexism as another root cause and equated it with imperialism, racism, colonialism, and slavery.

Women, in Carr's opinion, "still work under conditions not far removed from servitude". For example, Carr noted that it was only 52 years ago that the privy council recognized women as "persons". "However," said Carr, quoting a leading

feminist, "women are still controlled economically through sex and sexually through economics".

Regarding sexual violence, Carr poured much scorn on the school of thought that blamed rape and wife battering on women because "they want to be victimized". She quoted statistics that most women's self-esteem may decline as a result of being frequently abused. This is the main reason for the increase of women drug addicts, alcoholics, and mental patients. According to statistics, the current psychiatric population in Canada is 61% female and 39% male.

women's lack of self-esteem, according to Carr, could also be attributed to sex stereotyping. Carr accused

the media of being the major perpetrators of this stereotyping. The favored female stereotype portrayed in the media shows a woman who is young, slim, beautiful, docile, stupid, and always sexually available. Therefore, a woman's worth is based on her physical attractiveness. As she gets older, she becomes more neurotic trying to conform to the image of Bo Derek.

The government also contributes to the abuse of women. For example, most western societies do not recognize spouse rape as a

crime. Pornography is protected as an individual freedom. Nor do the governments of western societies provide adequate numbers of transition houses, day-care centres, and rape counselling centers.

In the workplace, women are locked into "job ghettoes" such as nursing, teaching, secretarial work, and sales. The average woman only earns 50% of a man's wage. Many "women's" jobs will also be obliterated by the computer revolution.

As a solution of the

problems that women face, Carr made two suggestions. First, women must become more aggressive in demanding equal pay for equal work and stronger sexual assault laws. Second, a shorter work week should be legislated. This would spread available jobs to more workers. A guaranteed income could also lighten the economic burden. Mandatory affirmative action programs could give women access to a wider range of jobs, training programs, promotions, and information on technological change.

Soc./Anth. majors saved

ARCHIVES
U.P.E.I.

By Carolyn Ryan

The UPEI Senate has voted to retain existing majors in Sociology and Anthropology, at the same time giving official status to a joint major in Sociology and Anthropology.

As its ninth meeting for 1983-84 on December 2, Senators discussed the issue at some length before voting on the controversial motion. The eventual decision was greeted with approval by students and faculty from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology who attended the meeting, unsure of the future of their discipline at UPEI.

Their anxiety had some foundation. The Academic Planning Committee, to whom the proposal of integration had been referred at Senate's November 18 meeting, considered the proposal on November 28 but felt unable to advise Senate. Some APC members still agreed with their unanimous decision in October that there should be only a single joint major, arguing that two or three majors was simply too many in the Department. The committee came to a 5-5 split vote on the proposal, with two abstentions.

Much discussion followed APC chairman Roger Black's report on this situation.

Political Studies professor Gary Webster felt that Senate should consider the recommendations of his colleagues in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, since they would be more familiar with the consequences of having only one major in their disciplines. He pointed out that both students and faculty are unanimously opposed to the dropping of separate majors, and called for research by qualified

sociologists and anthropologists outside UPEI into the justifications for having the joint majors.

School of Business Administration director J. J. Revell countered this by reminding Senators that all the Senate committees which had looked at the matter had recommended the solitary joint major. Mr. Revell also sits on the APC.

Over the past five years, the average number of majors per year has been 4.2 in Anthropology and Sociology, said Ian MacDonald of the Extension Department, pointing out that it would be wrong to deny so many students the chance to follow their intended major. Student Senator Kent McKay agreed, predicting that students would go elsewhere rather than remain at UPEI to take a major they don't want.

Dean of Arts Verner Smitheram spoke at length on the merits of retaining the "two separate streams" of study, plus a joint major, a proposal which would involve increased cross-listing of courses. The existence of three majors would allow students to choose streams suitable to their career goals and accomplish easy transfers between the two programs. It would also integrate the work of the departments and provide a useful basis for a future honours program.

He continued by pointing out that since the students, the faculty, the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee, and the Dean of arts unreservedly oppose the abolition of separate majors, a situation where these people would be forced to follow or implement a single joint major would be highly

undesirable.

His main conclusions were that a proposal involving three majors would be academically sound and a workable response bringing peace to a formerly incompatible Sociology and Anthropology faculty. The proposal would give students a choice and respect the objectives, if not the recommendations, of the Adjudicatory Committee, the Senate Review Committee, and the Academic Planning Committee.

When Smitheram had finished his presentation, Professor James R. Kelly of the Classics Department stated that a distributed description of Smitheram's proposal accomplished interdependency between departments so well that there was in fact little need for a joint major at all. Chemistry professor Glenn Palmer concurred with this, saying that instituting another major would only add to the present "proliferation of degrees" at UPEI.

However, when the motion to retain the existing two majors and add a third joint major in Sociology/Anthropology came to a vote, it passed with a convincing majority. Students and faculty who had come to observe broke into spontaneous applause, and Sociology professor Allan MacDonald rose to thank Senate.

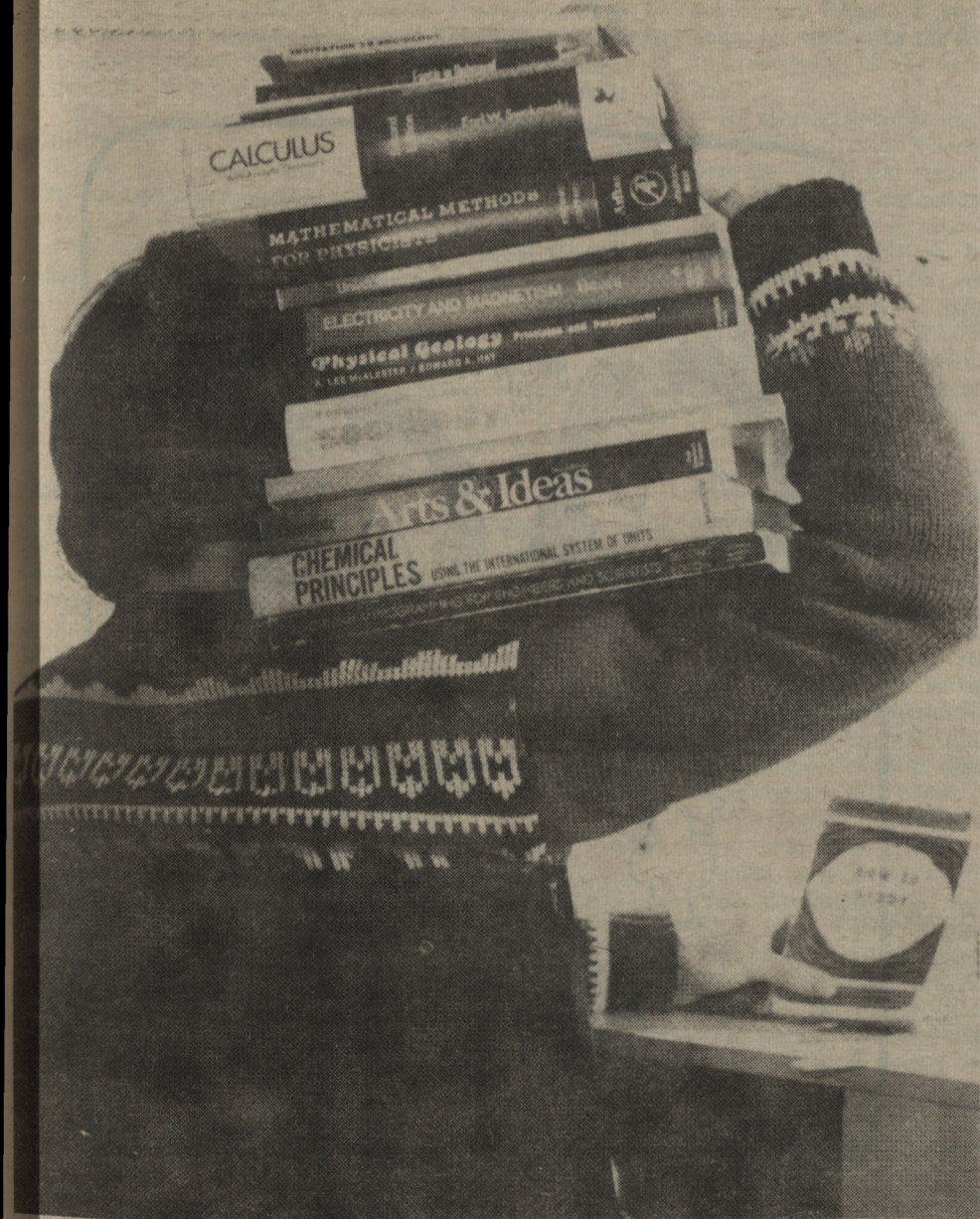
As the door swung shut behind those departing, Senators picked up their agendas and went on with the next item of business.

A slightly anticlimactic air and a note on the secretary's notebook were all that remained of a dispute that had lasted for over two months.

The Netted Gem

Vol 1 Issue 6

Thursday December 8, 1983



Ho, ho, ho and a armload of books ... Despite the holiday season, UPEI students will face the Grim Reaper this week as fall semester exams start on Friday, December 9.