

INSTRUCTOR INSULTS WOMEN

TORONTO (CUP)—Bar admission students at Osgoode Hall in downtown Toronto, are demanding a public apology from a course instructor following remarks he made about two pages of text which prospective male and female lawyers charged are sexist and manipulative.

Many of the students are graduates of York's Osgoode Hall Law school. Toronto lawyer Albert Strauss, who heads the law office administration section of the bar admission section at Osgoode, told his class of several hundred Nov. 16 they could choose whether to take the material in question to heart or not. Then, directing his response to the women in the room, he said: "...or you can send them (the pages) back, along with your brassieres...or any other garment."

A number of students began walking out of the class. Observing one woman who tossed the two pages of the loose-leaf manual on his desk as she left, Strauss remarked, "I guess she's not wearing a bra."

An emotional scene followed outside the lecture room, as students confronted Strauss, swearing at him and demanding an apology.

The bar admission students, mostly in their twenties and early thirties on the last leg of seven years of academic

and practical preparation said later that the material in the course text was offensive enough, but the attitude of their instructor was "inexcusable."

The manual, designed to aid lawyers setting up practice, suggests lawyers could try the following newspaper advertisement when looking for a secretary: "Young lawyer desires beautiful, young and confidential secretary...but really needs an efficient Gal Friday. Unless very beautiful,

you should be able to take short-hand on machine dictation...you should be a whiz at making good coffee..."

Students are petitioning to have the material removed from the course, inviting others to send the pages to the director of the bar admission course. Student Beth Symes said that at a time when new lawyers are being forced to set up their own practices because of the tight job market, the inclusion of such mater-

ial is more than just bad taste.

Jeff House, one of the almost 1,000 bar admission students in Ontario expecting to be called to the bar when the six-month bar course ends in February, said the incident has a familiar ring to it.

He said he attended one seminar in which an instructor gave students pointers on how to do well in the trial situation.

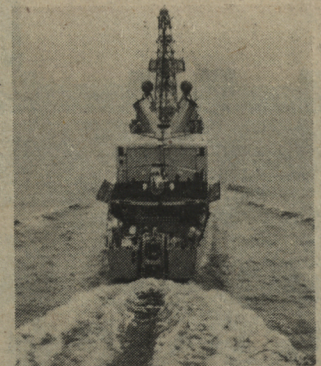


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